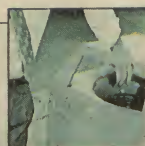


**Mother's Day specials**  
Find out how she helped make you queer—  
and where to take her to say thanks.  
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**To sweep...**  
Perchance to gleam...  
The Castro tidies up.  
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**Stephen Fry goes Wilde**  
Screen giant talks with the  
B.A.R. about Oscar Wilde.  
see Arts section



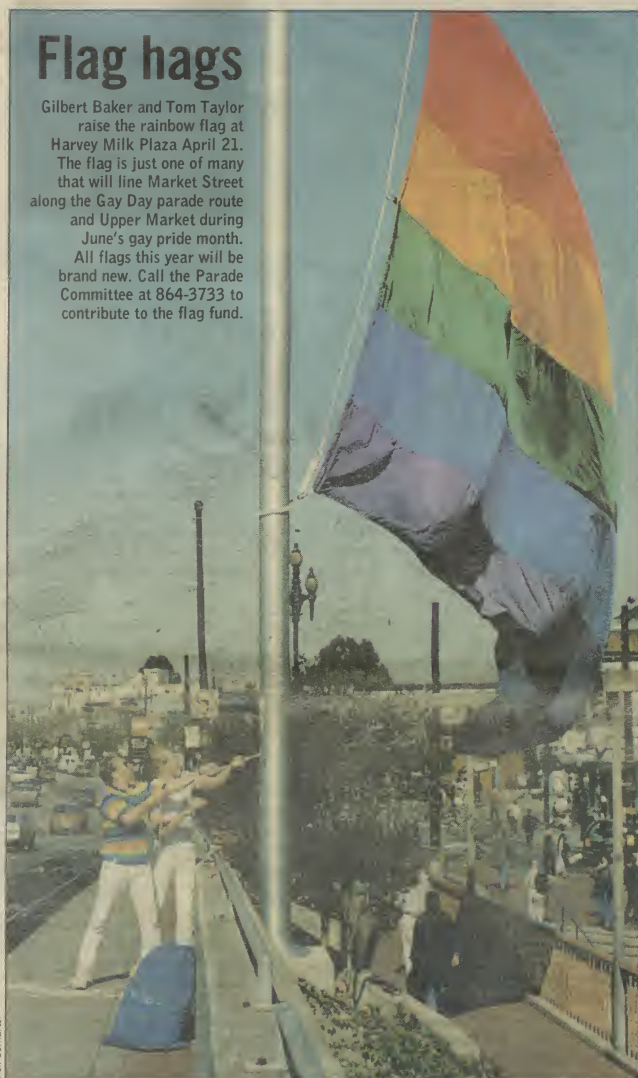
# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 19 • 7 May 1998

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## Flag hags

Gilbert Baker and Tom Taylor raise the rainbow flag at Harvey Milk Plaza April 21. The flag is just one of many that will line Market Street along the Gay Day parade route and Upper Market during June's gay pride month. All flags this year will be brand new. Call the Parade Committee at 864-3733 to contribute to the flag fund.



Rick Gerhardt

## PWA commits suicide to focus attention on HMO problems

by Mike Salinas

**A** Southern California man with AIDS set his truck and himself on fire Thursday, April 30 after blocking two Los Angeles freeways, then shot himself to death in front of millions of television viewers to bring attention to problems he faced and the healthcare he received at his Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). However, it seems the message he prepared for the world will not get wide notice.

The man's sister and neighbors have identified him as Daniel V. Jones, a 40-year-old maintenance worker at the Renaissance Hotel in Long Beach. According to his sister, Jones was HIV-positive, and his HMO had

mixed up his records with another patient, adversely affecting his health some years ago.

Jones threw a satchel over the side of an elevated ramp during the freeway standoff. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the satchel contained a videotaped suicide note in which Jones blamed his failing health and his medical insurer for his decision to take his own life. Photographed sitting on a couch next to his dog, Gladdis, Jones reportedly said on the tape, "I'm not going to fight the disease. It has affected my neurological system. I'm not going to end up crazy."

He also said, "I'm a dead man," and identified a doctor but not his HMO.

During the ordeal, Jones called 911 on a cell phone and begged a dispatcher to stop

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## Gay man guilty in hit man case

by Dennis Conkin

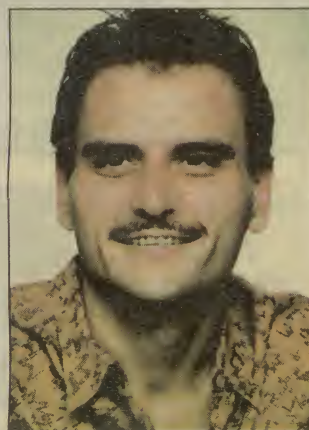
**A** Contra Costa Superior Court jury found an East Bay gay former physician guilty of two felony counts of soliciting the murder-for-hire of his onetime lover, and rejected his claims that he was not guilty by reason of AIDS dementia, on Thursday, April 29.

Gary Parkison, MD, now faces 25 years to life in state prison on the charges.

Parkison had pleaded not guilty to the charges on the grounds that he was insane, because he suffered from AIDS dementia at the time he asked an undercover police officer to kill his former lover Jim Swan, a San Francisco architect.

Parkison was also convicted of three additional felony counts of insurance fraud related to the case, but the jury acquitted him of setting an arson fire in the building where he also briefly operated an executive relo-

page 21 ►



Dan Mills

Former Concord doctor Gary Parkison

## SF 'AIDS Czar' off and running

by Cynthia Laird

**S**hortly after longtime gay activist Dick Pabich agreed to be Mayor Willie Brown's "AIDS Czar" in early February, he found himself facing several crises. Immediately he had to find new fiscal agents for the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention's three local programs, while simultaneously dealing with differing reactions to the mayor's controversial plan to create an employment development unit in the Department of Public Health (DPH) to address workplace entry and re-entry for

people living with HIV/AIDS.

Now, after a few months on the job — for which Pabich, who's living with AIDS, is working without pay — he says he has gotten settled in and hired an assistant, openly gay African-American Bill Barnes, a 21-year-old activist whom Pabich first noticed at the Mayor's HIV/AIDS Summit in late January.

"Bill brought himself to my attention with his comments," Pabich laughed as he recalled the exchange. "He made a very strong statement about the lack of youth in the planning process. When I decided to take this job it was as a volunteer, and I asked to hire an assistant. I particularly wanted some-

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Bill Barnes and Dick Pabich

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Sid and Bruce

# Oh boy, no Boy at Pride

by Mark Mardon

Contractual restrictions enforced by Boy George's booking agent in the United States have forced the entertainer to back out of his scheduled appearance at this year's Pride Celebration in San Francisco.

According to Pride Committee Executive Director Teddy Witherington, George and his reunited Culture Club band are scheduled to tour America beginning in July. They were told by the William Morris Agency that they could not perform at concert venues that the booking agency had not scheduled. George's own London management had originally confirmed the singer's Pride appearance, but apparently was unable

to sway William Morris to relax booking restrictions.

Witherington expressed "heartbreak" at the cancellation, noting that George had definitely "wanted to be here." But he also hinted that "more stuff is cooking," noting that included among the final lineup of entertainers at the event will be several other performers of "major international stature." Recently, the Pride Committee confirmed the main-stage appearances of Billy Ray Martin, Murmurs, and Alannah Myles. Negotiations with other "big name" acts are still taking place.

"I'm happy in some respects," Witherington said. "George's cancellation this year makes it all the more likely he'll play here next year." ▼



Boy George

# Sunshine task force fine tuning legislation

by Cynthia Laird

Supervisor Tom Ammiano's Accountability on Nonprofits Task Force has begun meeting again in an effort to fine tune draft legislation that would bring "sunshine" to nonprofits that receive city funding. The 20-member task force met April 29 and again May 6, Ammiano's office said.

Ammiano distributed draft legislation at an April 22 hearing before the board's Finance Committee, where many community activists testified about the need to bring more scrutiny to the inner workings of nonprofits.

The proposed ordinance still needs to be heard again by the finance committee and go before the full board. "I'm cautiously optimistic," Ammiano told the B.A.R. of the chances for his plan to be heard by the finance committee, before it becomes overwhelmed with hearings on the city's 1998-99 budget. At last month's hearing, Supervisor Mabel Teng, who chairs the committee, said she would attempt to hold a hearing as quickly as possible. Supervisor Gavin Newsom, also a member of the committee, seemed supportive of the proposal.

"I feel more comfortable today than I did," said Newsom. "I like what I heard today."

Ammiano's proposal would address several areas, including public access to meetings, public access to records, community representation, and compliance.

Under public access to meet-

ings, the draft ordinance requires nonprofits to designate and hold at least two public meetings per year, with issues addressed by an agency's board of directors to "be of approximately the same general nature and significance to the non-profit organization as issues typically addressed by the board." Some nonprofits are exempt, such as suicide prevention counseling services, abortion counseling, and domestic violence sheltering services.

The proposal also requires nonprofits to provide public notice of each public meeting at least 30 days in advance, and provide that information to the board of supervisors' clerk, who will then post the information.

One of the changes from the task force's original recommendations is that there is no provision in the proposed law for the city to have representation on nonprofit boards. That was dropped by Ammiano just prior to the finance committee meeting last month, and had been the thorniest issue for activists and nonprofits to agree on. Under community representation, the proposal now calls for nonprofits to seek board members who are consumers of services provided by the organization and to make a good faith effort to have at least one such person on the board.

Under the section detailing public access to records, the draft ordinance requires nonprofits to "maintain and make available for public inspection and copying a packet of financial information." That packet would include at a minimum, the agency's most re-

cent annual budget, most recent state and federal tax returns, any financial audits performed by or for the city, and any performance evaluations performed by or for the city. Nonprofits may charge actual photocopying fees if someone wants copies of the information.

At last month's public hearing, Controller Ed Harrington said the city is in the process of compiling a database of community-based organizations (CBOs) that receive city funds, and that they should be audited along with city departments. Some 500 CBOs receive approximately \$150 million in funding through the city; of those, about 30 each get over \$1 million, Harrington said.

There has been some opposition to the nonprofit sunshine law Ammiano is pushing. Dr. Gene Gowdey, a member of the city's HIV Health Services Planning Council (CARE Council) and a provider of dental services to people living with HIV/AIDS, strongly opposed any sunshine for nonprofits, saying proponents' arguments were not valid.

"I oppose the sunshine proposal," testified Gowdey. "It's sad and pitiful, [it's like] shooting an arrow in our backs."

Members of ACT UP/Golden Gate, several of whom serve on the task force, disagreed. "I am not a victim, I'm a survivor and a lot of us are not treated fairly," said Peggy Taylor Campbell.

Gowdey's colleague on the planning council, ACT UP/Golden Gate member Matthew Sharp, said, "Accountability is a good thing. Just ask Martha Stewart." ▼

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## Re-opening their doors



The newly expanded and remodeled Immune Enhancement Project held a grand re-opening on May 1 with a silent auction, free food, and live entertainment. Board chair Bonnie Moore escorted Mayor Willie Brown through the new facility made possible from a generous grant from the Mayor's Office of Community Development.

## Transient arrested in gay Mendocino murder

by Mark Mardon

Authorities in Mendocino County made an arrest Wednesday, May 6 in connection with the murder of a gay man found beaten to death last Sunday near Ukiah. And, they say, at least one more arrest in the case is possible.

The victim was identified by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department as Lewis Pearson, 44, of Aptos, California. He had apparently been participating in a weekend gathering of the Billy Club, a group of gay men who enjoy rural lifestyles, shortly before his body was found near a popular cruising spot in Mendocino County.

"Pearson was discovered on May 3 at about 1 p.m. by a rancher who was checking his vineyard," Captain Kevin Broin of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "He was near his car. He appeared to have been beaten to death. The farmer reported it to our department, and sheriff's detectives collected evidence at the scene."

Broin added that at least two witnesses, who did not see the incident occur, nevertheless saw vehicles at scene and were able to describe them to investigators.

"We developed the information far enough that we were able

to trace one suspect and make an arrest," Broin said. He identified the arrestee as Rick Fernandez, a "transient" from the Calpella area, who had checked into the Ukiah Motel 6.

Fernandez, 24, was charged with murder and is being held in the Mendocino County Jail on \$100,000 bail.

"There appears to be more than one person involved," said Broin, indicating that possibly two more people may have played a role in the murder. "We feel strongly that there's the possibility of more arrests."

"We won't discount the possibility of this being a hate crime," Broin replied when asked whether the murder was being treated as such. "But I'd hate to label it anything until we get all the facts and learn what the motive was. I wouldn't rule out a hate crime."

Broin said he "couldn't speak to motive at this time. I can't speculate."

"If this does turn out to be a gay-related hate crime," said *Ukiah Daily Journal* Reporter Glenda Anderson, it would be the first of its kind in Mendocino County. She speculated, however, that it might have been a case of random violence. In her neck of the woods, she said, "we have a lot of young people wiggled out on methamphetamines."

Anderson also noted that Pear-

son's vehicle bore handicap license plates, though local investigators were unsure what handicap Pearson may have had.

"I'm just shocked," said a Billy Club member who asked to remain anonymous. "I'm so outraged. The gay presence up here is pretty well accepted. It's rather quiet, and people get left alone. It's a tragic thing for the Billy Club. It'd be like leaving a faerie gathering and have this happen." ▼

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# City council: Berkeley scouts must pay

by Cynthia Laird

The Boy Scouts of America's national policy discriminating against gays and atheists has hurt local affiliations where it counts — in the wallet. On Tuesday, May 5 the Berkeley City Council overwhelmingly voted 8 to 1 to stop giving the Sea Scouts a free ride by not charging for two berths at the Berkeley Marina. The decision means that for the first time in 60 years, the local group that works with inner-city youth will have to figure out how to come up with the approximately \$12,000 annual rent for the berths.

Across the bay, San Francisco Supervisor Mabel Teng was instrumental in getting a local charity organization to drop four California Boy Scout councils from its list of recipients of a city employees' annual charity drive, because of the national policy that

excludes gays. The national group is in court defending its exclusionary position that also bars atheists.

The program raised \$563,000 last year; city workers can make charitable contributions to one of nine umbrella groups directly from payroll deductions. One of those groups, Local Independent Charities, listed four Boy Scout councils among its recipients. The group took the scouts off the list after Teng voiced strong opposition at a finance committee meeting.

The Berkeley council vote was good news for openly gay Councilmember Kriss Worthington, whose office spent a lot of time working on the matter. Last month, the city's Waterfront Commission voted to continue letting the Sea Scouts use the berths for free, setting up this week's showdown at the council meeting. Worthington said the chambers were overflowing with about 150 Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts,

and their supporters, who were "lobbying heavily" for the council to back the waterfront commission.

Prior to the council's action Tuesday night, which came after nearly two hours of discussion, the city's Peace and Justice Commission voted unanimously to stop giving the berths to the Sea Scouts for free.

"It's quite sensational," Worthington told the B.A.R. "The council showed courage by standing up against discrimination." He added that the resolution did acknowledge that the Sea Scouts expressed opposition to its parent organization, the national Boy Scouts of America, of the group's anti-gay policy.

The Sea Scouts receive no money from the national group and have only held small fundraisers. Supporters do not know how they will come up with the money, but were not surprised by the council's decision. ▼

## Women's Building groundbreaking tonight

by Cynthia Laird

A reception to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Women's Building renovations and program enhancements will be held tonight (Thursday, May 7), complete with a ceremonial sledgehammering in the rubble to begin construction for seismic retrofitting and expansion. Interested members of the public are invited to "toast" the old Women's Building and hear an announcement about the legendary women for whom rooms in the renovated building will be named, said spokeswoman Rachel Timoner.

Guests are expected to include San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, members of the Board of Supervisors, and other community leaders. A brief program will pay tribute to a few special supporters of the project's capital campaign.

Timoner said the Women's Building is in the midst of two major transformations. The "Reinforce the Dream Campaign" is a fundraising drive to raise \$5.9 million for the building's renovations. The "Visionary Transition" is a two-year campaign to develop and implement new, innovative programming based on a community needs assessment. The work is planned to be completed in the year 2000.

"The Women's Building intends to bring the spirit of the building's admired mural inside — to make the structure as

strong, and its programs as reflective of the community that is its home," Timoner said. ▼

The program starts at 6 p.m. at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street.

## Scouting for all!



Thirteen-year-old Petaluma Boy Scout Steven Cozza spoke at the Sunday morning service of the First United Lutheran Church describing his campaign to get a million signatures on a petition to the Boy Scouts demanding that they end their discrimination against gay people. Cozza also received a special award from the congregation for his activities. Supervisor Tom Ammann and P-FLAG will also be honoring Cozza at a Scouting For All fundraiser to be held at Josie's Cabaret, located at 3583 16th Street, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12.

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# Lungren denies pressuring landlord to evict pot club

by Mark Mardon

Having failed to obtain a court order permanently shutting down the medical marijuana facility now known as the Cannabis Healing Center, California Attorney General Dan Lungren reportedly has tried a new hard-ball tactic: pressuring the elderly landlord of the pot club's building to evict his tenants.

According to club founder Dennis Peron, who has stepped down from running the operation to devote himself full time to running for governor, Lungren recently sent 10 state narcotics police and lawyers from his office to the home of 94-year-old Victor Zachariah, who owns the building at 1444 Market Street where the healing center has been located since 1995, "and coerced him to sign a statement saying he didn't want me in the building. They threatened him, saying they'd take the building."

In the note, according to Peron, Zachariah wrote that "I didn't know he [Peron] was selling illegal drugs there [at the Cannabis Healing Center] and I ordered him to vacate the property."

When contacted by telephone on Monday, Zachariah (whose number was obtained from the phone book after center volunteers declined to give it out) confirmed he had written a note saying he no longer wanted the Cannabis Healing Center as a tenant. When asked whether anyone had asked him to write the note, Zachariah declined to say, replying curtly that "that's my business."

A spokesman for the Attorney General, who claimed to be very familiar with the state's proceedings against the pot club, denied his boss had sent any agents to Zachariah's home.

"If we have to move, we'll move," said Peron. He added, however, that "when you sign a thing under duress, when it comes out in court, the judge is not going to like it. A jury wouldn't like knowing the cops threatened him [Zachariah] with forfeiture."

Peron said that on a personal level, he and "Mr. Zach" (as he calls his landlord) get along very well. "He really likes me," Peron said.

## No restraint

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, April 29, Superior Court Judge William Cahill denied a renewed request by Lungren for a new temporary restraining order against Hazel Rodgers and the Cannabis Healing Center she now runs (having assumed leadership after Peron stepped down on April 20).

Cahill ruled that newspaper articles submitted as evidence of the illegal activities within the building constitute only "inadmissible hearsay."

"There is insufficient evidence as to what is occurring inside the Center for this court to issue an order closing the Center without a full preliminary injunction hearing," Cahill wrote in his deci-

sion.

The judge ordered such a hearing to take place on June 4, at which time Henderson, who is 79, will be expected "to show cause, if any, why you, your agents, employees and others should not be restrained and prohibited from conducting, maintaining, occupying or in any way permitting the use of the premises at 1444 Market Street, San Francisco, for the purpose of selling, storing, serving, distributing, keeping, or giving away controlled substances."

Meanwhile, at Cahill's order, volunteers from the Healing Center are now patrolling the premises outside of the building, ensuring the sidewalks are kept free from litter, loiterers, and pot smokers. Neighbors in the vicini-

ty had complained to Lungren about the activities outside the center.

"If this nuisance is not immediately controlled," wrote Cahill, "upon a proper showing, the plaintiff [Lungren] may return to this court to renew its request for an immediate Temporary Restraining Order."

"We're happy to do that," said Lynne Barnes, one of the center's volunteers. She explained that the area is now patrolled by people with walkie-talkies who ensure the club stays in compliance with the order. She then noted the center's new summer hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday; Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. ▼

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Volume 28, Number 19  
7 May 1998PUBLISHER  
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## Mediacrity

Back when American journalism was the envy of the world, it was understood that the media interviewed the media only when desperate. Those stories were reserved for the bleak off-hours of political conventions, for example, when reporters knew that delegates were too punchy or too drunk to make sense; by turning their attention and microphones to each other, they could perhaps create the illusion that they were following a real story.

Now the media is the only thing the media seems to care about.

Part of the problem is the Lewinski/Paula Jones debacle, which is built upon the bones of the Princess Diana story, which was itself erected over the still-festering grave of Mrs. O.J. Simpson. In all three cases, the media's coverage of the story became the story. And judging from way that process has accelerated, and the reckless speed at which reporters are littering the landscape with discarded concepts like verification, the future of responsible journalism seems about as secure as a crash test dummy.

The most recent media frenzy (or most recent as these words are written; who knows what may come in the interim) centered around the last hours of Daniel V. Jones. Not a household name, he was just one of the thousands of people in Los Angeles who have had HIV-and-HMO-disease. According to friends, his health deteriorated partly because his medical records were exchanged with another patient's within the black hole bureaucracy of an HMO.

Anyone who has dealt with an HMO for any serious condition must know the industry's attitude toward health is frequently cavalier, and often bordering on criminal. It is hard to console friends who are breast cancer patients or people with AIDS (or any other condition) who must fight for months, for instance, to get a second opinion or a so-called "experimental" procedure that could save their lives; they — and we — know that every second spent in that needless chase is time lost, utterly and irrevocably. It's only the ironically-named "Health Maintenance Organizations" that seem blind to that reality.

So it is understandable that Jones would feel that, as long as his life was slipping away, he might as well spend its last hours bring-

ing attention to the HMO problem. In his despair, he thought his suicide on a barricaded freeway overpass might alert others to the seeming hopelessness of the situation he faced. It was no accident that he chose the highest elevation of that labyrinthine freeway system: he wanted the news choppers to be able to see him clearly, and get a good shot of his sign: *HMOs are in it for the money.*

And then, when he was certain he had our attention, he set fire to his truck, killed his dog, and blew his brains out, so everyone would know he was serious.

Viewer protests instantly spun the story on its axis, and soon the media was the story again. There was hand-wringing, and accusations and denials, and pronouncements, and pomposity, but few of the discussions that Jones set out to prompt.

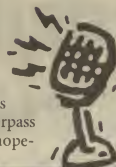
We still don't know if a tree falling in an empty woods makes a sound, but we have learned that a person with HIV can fall in the middle of America's largest urban area and

be rendered silent. Jones wanted to make sure he would not go quietly into that dark night, but sadly wound up being just another casualty of the medical malpractice industry. One more dead PWA who had a story to tell, but the TV stations are so busy interviewing each other they haven't bothered to tell it.

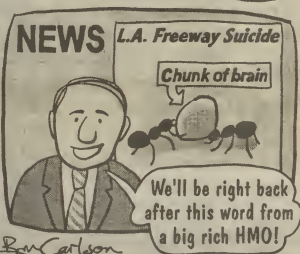
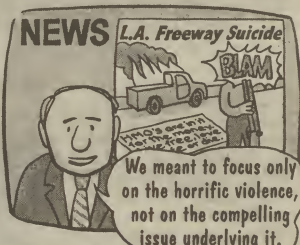
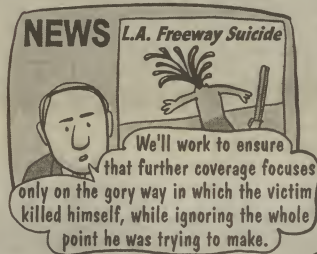
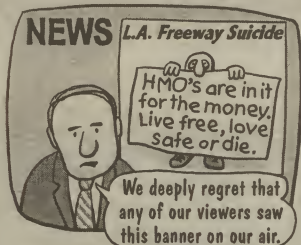
We're glad to have the opportunity to point out to others in despair that there are better ways of dealing with depression than killing your pets and yourself. This Wednesday, May 13, the national Depressive and Manic-Depressive Association will co-host a Town Hall meeting to discuss the problem.

Everyone is invited to the program, which begins at 8 p.m. at the Herbst Theatre (at 401 Van Ness Avenue), and if you have to ask yourself if you need to discuss your depression, you probably do.

If Jones proved anything, it's that suicide doesn't work. Talking about depression does. If you need help, get help. The Town Hall meeting is a good place to begin. ▼



## Editorial



## An open letter to the HPPC

by Shawn O'Hearn,  
HIV Prevention Planning  
Council member

Dear fellow HIV Planning Council members and concerned others:

I have many questions that I would like answered. I've put this request in writing because I want serious, thoughtful answers to my questions so that I can make informed, and hopefully better, decisions about where HIV prevention dollars are spent in this city.

Here they are:

1. If the Department of Public Health already has three mental health service divisions and three substance abuse service divisions under its umbrella then why does the Planning Council fund agencies to duplicate these already abundant and available services? Why not refer them?

2. If an agency (including DPH-run agencies) receives prevention dollars then I expect them to be accountable for those dollars. Here is the *minimum* I expect from each agency: 1) A current comprehensive organizational flow chart including board members; 2) Annual budget with simplified financial breakdown of how monies are allocated within the organization including salaries, office/equipment expense, external revenues, and other budget related items; 3) An organizational mandate with a mission-driven five-year plan on how the agency anticipates meeting client needs; 4) Who are the individuals served? How are they served? Please quantify in real numbers of people and not statistics or percentages. If this information already exists I'd appreciate

seeing it in a reader-friendly format. If it doesn't exist — why doesn't it exist? Hopefully having this information readily available to council members and to the public will create some trust that I feel doesn't currently exist in light of the NTFAP fiasco and the AIDS Foundations lack of full disclosure.

3. Since we spent 2.4 million prevention dollars on HIV risk assessment, testing, and counseling, and another one million on Individual Risk Reduction Counseling, I'd appreciate knowing quantitatively what we got for our \$3.4 million investment? How many individuals did these 15 funded agencies test in 1997 and how many tested positive from the actual number tested? Why is there only one agency (AMP) which is funded to train pre- and post-test counselors? We spent \$90,000 to train new counselors and update the skills of experienced counselors — how many new counselors are trained per year? What criteria is used to select who will be eligible for a slot in these rare counselor trainings? I'd appreciate the date, time and location of trainings for the remainder of 1998 so I can refer people who are interested.

4. Why aren't people who test positive (or who are currently HIV-positive) immediately screened for hidden STDs or for parasites to identify and clear these infections? I'm not a doctor or a rocket scientist but it seems like inexpensive, basic prevention within the medical model? Seems like an easy referral from test site to DPH's STD

Prevention & Control division?

5. Could someone please tell me exactly what our \$350,000 investment in the Detuned Assay was to accomplish? What "Prevention" outcomes are expected from this? Same with the \$300,000 for the PEP experiment? I guess it just confuses me that so much money is spent on "theoretical" prevention and yet only \$150,000 is allocated for condoms? I mean, we've spent \$750,000 to evaluate the programs — which is five times what we spend for condoms in this city! What are these evaluations telling us?

This is really bad.

6. Could someone please give me a breakdown of the \$270,000 that was spent on "media." What did we get for this money?

7. I question the logic in prioritizing prevention dollars by BRP — Behavioral Risk Population, when over 90 percent of new infections in San Francisco are gay or bisexual men or injection drug users (IDUs). The money should be allocated to agencies doing prevention interventions that have a proven track record and work and not to unproven prevention theories and certainly not to something as convoluted as incidence rates (number of estimated new HIV infections for each BRP divided by the total estimated number of new infections in San Francisco in a 12 month period). What??? Why don't we just pick a number out of the air and save everyone's time? It would be just as reliable, as far as I'm concerned. Maybe we need to be open as to how other planning councils are prioritizing their prevention dollars? ▼

## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## SSI=Still Substandard Income

I am so happy for Gov. Wilson. He has given himself (in effect) a raise. His raise alone is more than five times my yearly income. I am a disabled PWA who receives SSI. Excepting the last cost of living rise given by the federal government, Wilson has always seen fit to reduce the state contribution by a sum equal to the cost of living raise the federal government has judged necessary for our survival. My yearly income is now more than \$4,000 below poverty level. It is years since Wilson has condescended to allow us any cost of living raise in income. I'm so happy he'll have such a fat retirement income when he leaves office, so happy that having denied us any respite for so long that he will have as a raise alone what is more than five years of my income.

And think of the lovely prison he can build with that billion dollar "windfall."

Peron for governor! Why not?

Charles Shuts  
San Francisco

## SF International Film Festival?

I have been visiting your lovely city for the past few months. I attended the one o'clock showing of *Saltmen of Tibet* at the Castro Theatre on Saturday, April 25. Imagine my disappointment when the program director included gratuitous aspersions about Poland in his commentary on this very fine film. ("I went to Warsaw last year, and the last thing I expected to see there was that they were showing *Saltmen of Tibet* in their movie theaters.")

I have grown up enduring homophobic slurs elsewhere. How ironic that the city which prides itself in ethnic and sexual diversity would permit such negative stereotyping to go unchallenged.

I trust that your other readers share my sense of indignation and will communicate this to the organizers of the 41st San Francisco International Film Festival.

Mariusz Mieszkowski  
Lublin, Poland

## An in-gene-ious opportunity

It was recently announced that a "gay gene" had been discovered which probably plays an important role in determining an individual's adult sexual orientation. Why have gays responded to this scientific discovery with such indifference?

This may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for gays to reassert power over their own destinies. If you think not, consider how the Christian Right may be forced to deal with genetic gayness. The Right may still claim gayness as a "willpower" issue. Sure, like curly black hair.

Can the Right claim gayness is a sin? No longer, unless they consider protruding ears a sin as well.

Perhaps the Right will claim God's work is simply incomplete, and they will assist him by modifying the gay gene. The Right may demand legislation that requires every pregnant woman to register so the state can determine the genetic purity of her fetus. Will the Right want to do gene therapy to the offending fetuses, before the child is born; as part of the circumcision ritual, when the child enters school or just prior to puberty? When?

What if the Right believes gayness is so heinous that they want the parents of gay gene children to be eliminated from the gene pool. How about public stonings of "impure mothers" at Candlestick? For the "impure fathers" the solution is easier, e.g. castration. The castrate would naturally have the choice of electricity, the knife, or pharmaceuticals. This purification celebration would also take place at Candlestick. Tickets at Bass.

The genetic issue may be the most important issue gays have ever had. In answer to the charge that gayness is a perversion, we now have the answer, "Gayness is precisely the same type of perversion as blue eyes. Are blue eyes a perversion?"

Fellow gays prepare yourselves for battle. The Power Grabbers do not give up power gracefully.

Gerald Stinson  
San Jose, CA

## Where is Wayne's World?

I normally enjoy the Wayne Friday column. Sadly, the April 23 one includes an error. He suggests that Liz Abzug almost won a seat on New York City Council. Where was Wayne living at the time??? She didn't even win the Democratic primary, let alone the election!!! If you care to check the facts you will find that Tom Duane beat Abzug handsomely in the primaries and then "walked" the election by an enormous margin. In her campaign she made claims of having been a lesbian activist for some time whereas this was not born out by the facts. Duane as a longtime political activist among resident, tenant, and gay groups had a track record that made him invincible.

Paul Harris  
New York, NY

## B.A.R. mitzvah

Thanks so much for your warm portrait of Jerry Rosenstein ["Gay activist, Auschwitz survivor honored with Fammy Award," March 25]. You really captured a sense of who he is.

Thanks also for letting people know about Jewish Family and Children Services and the services we provide.

Ellen Newman, PR Director  
Jewish Family and Children Services  
San Francisco

## Caution — Cruising area ahead

Can't we please stop bashing ourselves?

Unlike Mr. Ambrunn [Mailstrom 4/23/98 — "United against violence"], I sympathize with the guy who was attacked at the windmills ["Carloads of teens terrorize gay man near G.G. Park windmills," April 8]. How sad that he is so indoctrinated with straight morality that he can offer no support to someone whose life was possibly in danger.

How straight of you, Mr. Ambrunn, to use children as a reason to say that some gay men should give up one little patch of Golden Gate Park. The children of this city have the use of every open space imaginable.

Our few traditional areas, where one might make outdoor contacts, are under attack in recent years, with the marauding of habitats and the habitats.

In addition, the straight adults have every inch of this city to use for public displays of affection & foreplay and any and all activities they wish to pursue. But once again, we gay men are supposed to hide our affections for each other especially in public. I do not see

anything served by "out of sight, out of mind" or "don't ask & don't tell!"

I would say to Mr. Ambrunn that "When the rest of the world offers me equal respect and I no longer have to be in fear of using a few small areas of the parks that I help to maintain, worry about children might be the most important issue." As a native San Franciscan, I know that the use of parks, alleys, toilets, and other public places to cruise has been happening for over a century and a half and will continue to happen as it seems to be a part of many men's sexuality. So, at times, even sex may occur, or a long-term lover perhaps discovered. Who knows where one will meet a new friend?

To Mr. Ambrunn's question, "Why (do) men have public sex less than ten yards away from children?" I would ask, "Why is there no outdoor spot in Golden Gate Park, or elsewhere, that can be used by gay men without fear or harassment?" gay cruising at the windmills was happening long before the explosion in soccer events. I would like to have an area with signs that tell any visitors that they will encounter behavior that may be new to them and information about why it is important for all to be able to enjoy the outdoors. I for one would have experienced less bashing in my 40 years in this city, if children were taught that gay affection is not dirty, wrong, evil, or "against god's will."

The city of Copenhagen, Denmark has a park that is used by all citizens and at the same time is known to be a place of gay cruising and possible sexual encounters. That park is full of a variety of families, (2 dads, 2 moms, and typical). One result is that those children learn to respect people who are different and that those differences need to be supported and respected. Those children know that adult, consensual sex is healthy and good, not something to fear.

I also take offense at Mr. Ambrunn's description of a man who was in fear for his life as, "cowering in the tall grass like a frightened caribou." Are you a hunter? You seem to infer that the violence of a gang of ignorant thugs is more acceptable than a gay man seeking to connect in an environment of his own choosing. You are blaming the victim and you certainly have no compassion for a fellow individual who was doing nothing wrong!

I know that cruising certain areas of any big city has its risks and that one needs to stay informed and alert, but that does not give ignorant teenagers the right to harass or physically hurt people. (No caring or responsible parents, I suspect.) Yes, Golden Gate Park is closed from 10 p.m. till 6 a.m., but I ask that reality be acknowledged. Encounters between men (gay, straight, and otherwise) will continue to happen. It is the inferred acceptability of violence by Mr. Ambrunn that is to be abhorred!! I deserve protection wherever we are! No matter the place, time, or environment!!

Keep on cruising and remember to be alert and safe. Do not let the morality police dictate how, when, or where our connections are made!!!

We have the same right to the "pursuit of happiness" as all other citizens. I for one will continue to be happy connecting with my buddies in the great outdoors!

Peter M. Hirsch  
San Francisco

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## Smallest drag show, biggest heart

I am writing to you today to tell you about a wonderful person, Bill Harrison a.k.a. the Empress Ginger XIV. For the past three years the Empress Ginger has held drag performances in the honor of her partner, Sissy Spaceout. Sissy passed away three years ago and to keep her memory alive, the Empress Ginger hosted "The World's Smallest Drag Show" monthly at the Wooden Horse and yearly at Marlena's. All the proceeds from these performances were donated to Project Open Hand.

In those three years, Ginger has managed to raise over \$20,000 for Project Open Hand's nutrition services.

I attended a few of the shows and it was amazing to see this incredible person in action. Through Ginger's charm and energy she raised the money \$1 at a time. Ginger's generosity reminded me of the grassroots efforts that started Project Open Hand. The Empress Ginger is an important part of our community and a very special friend to Project Open Hand. Thank you, Ginger, for all your hard work and dedication. A special thank you to Marlena, all the staff of the Wooden Horse and all the wonderful performers. It is through all of your efforts that Project Open Hand is able to continue providing Meals with Love for People with AIDS.

Tom Nolan  
Executive Director, Project Open Hand  
San Francisco

## Silence still equals death

In case you're wondering if needle exchange is an issue for "them," think again. Needle exchange is about us. A lot of us are shooting up.

In San Francisco, the vast majority of those of us who are infected are gay men. Those of us who shoot up and are gay are at higher risk than anyone else. Higher than gay men who don't shoot up. And higher than injectors who aren't gay.

As a community, we have prided ourselves in overcoming stereotypes and judgment. Standing by quietly while politicians say "needle exchange works, but let's not pay for it" is going to mean a lot more of us are going to die.

Dan Wohlfeller, MPH  
Education Director  
STOP AIDS Project

## Parson to parson collect

The following letter was sent to Fr. Zachary Shore of the Most Holy Redeemer Church:

Thank you so much for the unexpected and generous gift of \$400 for the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco Simply Supper food program.

We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness, which will help feed hungry people. Your advocacy for the impoverished is a model for our neighborhood.

When we announced your gift in church last Sunday, people spontaneously applauded, and also prayed aloud for your church during the prayer time.

Thank you again! We look forward to working with you on issues relating to poverty and homelessness.

Rev. Jim Mitulski  
Senior Pastor/MCC-SF

## Darth Laveda vs. the witches

I have written Archbishop Laveda requesting information as to how to obtain a nullification of my baptismal certificate and affiliation with the Church authorities in the Vatican. If any readers could give me any advice as to go about how to achieve my goal, please e-mail me at Jlen51@aol.com

By the way, if any of you readers want a good laugh about a very serious matter, visit the web site www.godhatesfags.com — Please send them lots of mail!

In the meantime, if you haven't yet read Arthur Evans's *Witchcraft and the Gay Counterculture*, I would highly recommend that you do. Don't be misled by its title; the book deals more with the history of gay ritual sex and its repression which began about three centuries before the birth of Christ, only to be supremely suppressed by Christianity. I believe this book is a "must" for all of us who are gay in order to become aware of our cultural roots.

Jim Lenartz  
San Francisco

## Horde diversions

Another way to greet the Baptist hordes (all three of them) might be to have a bit of street theater. Take three or four fun-loving queers, arm them with super squirt water weapons, have a water fight with the unholy hordes caught in the middle.

Some may actually bless you for it if we are in the middle of a week of 80-90 degree scorches...

Thornton Kimes  
San Francisco

## Anita Bryant in a jock strap

I read an article in today's *Sacramento Bee* about Reggie White of the Green Bay Packers and he and his family's hateful and malicious talk about gays. His wife blasts CBS for being "too scared of the Sodomite community" and Reggie White goes on to say he stands by his remarks that gays are "one of the biggest sins" and he will continue to "speak out against things hurting our children...killing off our people."

This guy is an Anita Bryant ten times over. The gay community has too often been a victim of hate and it's again time to take a stand. The community, including the 49ers, GLAAD, and your newspaper, ought to take special note of these latest remarks, denounce them, and give your readers a way to respond in a meaningful way.

I had hoped White's recent announcement of his retirement would put an end to these harmful and outrageous attacks on us, but I see "God told him" to honor his contract. As if God cares about NFL contracts.

Gary Anderegg  
Elk Grove, CA

[Editor's note: Please see the GLAADAlert in this issue of the B.A.R.]

## Dogging dogma

In the words of St. Thomas Aquinas, "We must love them both, those whose opinions we share and those whose opinions we reject. For both have labored in the search for truth, and both have helped us in the finding of it."

Eloquently stated. Easy in theory.

Difficult in execution.

The week before Easter, at a conference of 1,400 evangelical political activists (capitalizing on the holiday and its themes of atonement and resurrection), the Reverend D. James Kennedy, bathed in the colors of our nation's flag, set new guidelines to "reclaim America for Christ" — guidelines necessitated by the distancing of the Republican party platform from that of the religious right. To enact their vision of social reform, instead of centering their considerable attention and dollars on national elections, the focus shifts to a more grassroots level of activity. By winning election to school boards and city councils, by picketing abortion clinics and cities with liberal policies regarding homosexuality, "God's will for this nation will be done." "God's will," at least in their version, ends the right of women to control their bodies, institutes forced prayer in our public schools, and throws the gay community back to a position of judicial invisibility.

Did the Christians somehow win a monopoly on God? They should have told me. To "reclaim America for Christ" infers that America is a Christian nation. We are not. My God's will certainly differs from theirs. Our country was founded on principles of both religious freedom and religious plurality. No one should be subjected to the standards, beliefs, and interpretations of any one religion.

Another speaker at the convention, Edward Marcinski, noted "the laws (of the United States) have nothing to do with the laws of the Creator." He will forgive having his words used to his own disadvantage, but Mr. Marcinski, with this statement, explains the founding principle behind the first amendment to our Constitution? Separation of church and state is in place to protect both entities. It shields government from religious interference, and it preserves religion from governmental interference — equally protecting the dogmas of each. Freedom of religion allows Marcinski, Kennedy, and me to believe whatever we choose to believe. We are free to find God whatever God we choose. We are also free to not find God at all. These are private decisions, though, coming from within all of us as individual, intelligent, thinking men and women.

No one group (Christians, African-Americans, homosexuals, Buddhists, Asians, Jews, atheists, etc.) is truly free until freedom is relinquished to all. Christian conservatives preoccupied with converting the rest of us to their own personal beliefs must realize that, fundamentally, the principles and themes of all religions are universal and very closely parallel the principles and themes of humanity in general. Ideas of compassion, trust, and love for all people abound. All of us, as responsible adults, must learn that unity and diversity can peacefully coexist. We must learn the basic difference between tolerance and acceptance. It benefits no one to preach fear and separatism. Enlightenment comes from education — knowledge of all cultures and all religions.

Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson realized all of these details almost two-and-a-half centuries ago and mercifully, thankfully, incorporated them into The Constitution of the United States through our Bill of Rights.

For this, we should all thank God — in whatever form he (or she) takes in our own particular, separate lives.

Tim Bone  
San Francisco



## POLITICS

# Unbeatable Boxer?

by Wayne Friday

California's junior U.S. senator, **Barbara Boxer**, at the top of the GOP hit list not so long ago, now appears to be the early favorite not only in next month's open primary but also November's general election. Boxer, a former county supervisor and House member from Marin, was first elected to the U.S. Senate along with **Dianne Feinstein** in 1992. She built a reputation in Washington as being so liberal that it appeared unlikely she could ever get re-elected — even in California.

However, as in 1992, the Republican Party appears about to nominate a candidate, in this case multimillionaire San Diego businessman **Darrell Issa**, so far to the political right that even Republicans (particularly pro-choice women) shy away from him. When California state Treasurer **Matt Fong**, a political moderate, first entered the race for his party's nomination to oppose Boxer, many political analysts and writers around the state felt that he would prove a strong opponent. Indeed, even some Democratic strategists felt that Fong might unseat Boxer in the general election.

According to the latest Field Poll, however, the right-wing Issa, who's spent millions on television ads, is now leading all GOP contenders and will likely face off against Boxer in November. This is good news for the senator, particularly since Issa's

well-known pro-life views make his candidacy unacceptable to many Republican women. These same women may turn to Boxer because of her long support of a woman's right to choose. Since approximately 58 percent of registered California voters are women, the abortion issue could be pivotal.

While the poll shows that one-fifth or 20 percent of the state's registered voters are still undecided as to which candidate to support come June 2, the poll also shows Boxer with a very solid 43 percent, placing her comfortably ahead of her GOP opponents. Issa and Fong trail with 18 percent and 14 percent, respectively.

With less than four weeks to go, and Issa continuing to buy huge chunks of television time, few political consultants feel that Fong can overtake him. This makes Issa Boxer's nemesis in November. Interestingly enough, the Field Poll reveals Fong as a somewhat stronger opponent vis-à-vis Boxer. In head-to-head matchups with her Republican challengers, Barbara Boxer beats Issa 48 percent to 39 percent, but only racks up 47 percent to Fong's 41.

Senator Boxer's numbers for the June 2 open primary, where you can vote for any candidate regardless of your party affiliation, look so good because she is pulling a strong 72 percent of the Democratic vote, as well as an impressive 14 percent of the Republican vote. As a result of the latest Field Poll, as well as a couple of other recent ones, observers in both major parties feel that regardless of who becomes the Republican nominee next month, the U.S. Senate race in November is now Barbara Boxer's to lose.



Liberal lead: Senator Barbara Boxer

## Politics and people

The *New York Times*, in a front-page story last week on women in politics, called Dianne Feinstein "the most popular politician in California." Few, I believe, would disagree with that. Look for DiFi to endorse Rep.

**Jane Harman** soon in a big way. In addition, the respected senior senator is said to be ready to "go all out" to help Barbara Boxer retain her seat.

Ms. Feinstein was also featured in a *Los Angeles Times* interview in which she stated that

while she loves her job in the U.S. Senate, she has had second thoughts about not entering the governor's race. "You try to say, 'Well, I'll put it all behind me,' but it's not easy to do," Feinstein confided, adding that "it's hard all of a sudden when you're a bystander." A little late to be thinking that way now, Senator, especially when all your party faithful were begging you to jump in not so long ago.

From D.C. comes word that openly gay attorney **Todd Dickinson**, a former SF resident who was active in the gay/lesbian movement here, has been nominated by President **Bill Clinton** to be deputy assistant secretary and deputy commissioner of the Patent and Trademark Office at the Department of Commerce.

From Hollywood, the good news is "and baby makes four!" It seems that one of my favorite performers, rocker **Melissa Etheridge**, and partner **Julie Cypher** are expecting their second child in November. Cypher gave birth to a girl in February last year.

In South Carolina, the bad news is that last week a high school principal canceled a free concert by the Grammy Award-winning Indigo Girls after some parents complained about the singers' sexual orientation. A spokesperson for Irmo High School in Irmo explained that the May 7 concert was canceled because of protests that were "polarizing" the community. The duo of **Amy Ray** and **Emily Saliers**, who will be featured in this summer's Lillith Fair concerts, are currently on a three-week tour of U.S. colleges and high schools.

Former Santa Clara County Supervisor **Ron Gonzales**, a De-

mocrat, and San Jose Councilwoman **Pat Dando**, a Republican, are locked in an increasingly nasty race for the mayorality of San Jose. Many are predicting that Dando will become that city's first GOP mayor in years.

Here in Baghdad by the Bay, a few of those supposedly in the know are telling me that **Clint Reilly** is "damned serious" about a run at **Willie Brown's** job. Are you reading this **Leland Yee**, **Angela Alioto**, and, yes, even **Quentin Kopp**?

The future's looking none too rosy for presidential wannabe Governor **Pete Wilson**. The latest Field Poll shows the governor with a sorry 47 percent job approval rating, down from 49 percent only a month ago. Ironically, the state's economy is in better shape now than it has been in years. Wilson's low marks stand in stark contrast to President Clinton's high ones here (well above 60 percent). Perhaps that beach-front property in San Diego with the wraparound porch is starting to look a bit more tempting to our guv?

As for Mr. Clinton, I've said this before — and I stand by it. Despite his unusually high job performance ratings (as opposed to his really low personal ratings), I believe that dark days lie ahead for William Jefferson Clinton, and I'm sorry to say that because I have always been a Clinton supporter. However, I'm convinced that Special Prosecutor **Kenneth Starr** has something — in fact, plenty — on the president, and you can bet that he will gleefully spill the beans at the most opportune moment for himself.

Alabama Governor **Fob James** (R) will sign legislation this week making same-sex marriages in that state illegal, as well as refusing to recognize those unions performed in other states.

Incidentally, if I were a Republican (and I'm damned sure not), I would be voting for **Dennis Peron** on June 2 over **Dan "Preacher Man" Lungren**. Hell, that's a no-brainer!

A reader called recently to inquire as to why I'd not commented on Supervisor **Mark Leno's** appointment. Well, I was out of town when it was announced and haven't talked with the new supe yet. However, I do feel that his appointment was probably one of the best (if not the best) that Willie Brown has made. Leno is a very committed public servant and will do us all proud. ▼

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# Show enough

by Beth Elliott

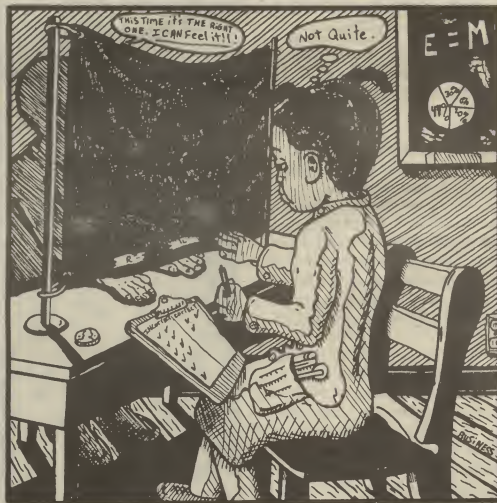
**T**wangs For The Memories Dept.: For all the talk of diversity and multiculturalism, there were some empty seats in the City of Oakland's box at the otherwise sold out George Strait country music festival the other week; fortunately, District 2 Councilperson John Russo got a multiethnic mini-crowd together to take in the show. One would think any politician with county-wide aspirations would have made an appearance, but no.

Aside from western swing veterans Asleep At The Wheel and the neotraditionalist headliner, it was all "young country" ... which John says works out to "old Eagles." Indeed, if you've wondered where all those old stadium rock clichés have gone, here's where to look. Smoke machines, down on the knees lead guitar work. John Michael Montgomery even threw in some licks from "Purple Haze" into a solo ... and played Lynard Skynner's "Sweet Home Alabama," which had a couple of us hanging out of the window and yelling for "Free Bird," as well as wondering how many in the crowd would get the verse about Neil Young.

Interesting local angle, of which I'd been unaware: one of the hot newcomers on the bill was Tim McGraw, whose father, like myself, went to school at St. Vincent's in Vallejo. That would be former New York Met and Philadelphia

Phillie Tug McGraw, who apparently (and unbeknownst to himself) fathered a child during a one-shot summer romance when he was in the minors. Though Tug's was one of the six baseball cards the kid had on his bedroom wall, neither knew they were related till the kid was 11. Seven years later, Tim looked him up again and they started bonding.

It's enough to make you cry ... so why no country song about this story yet? (Tim did say, at one point, "Some of you may know my daddy ... he played some ball a little ways up the



road.")

Pun For the Money, Two For the Show Dept.: Pretty amazing how things worked out last week so that Ben Stein got mentions for his Comedy Central game show *Win Ben Stein's Money* on facing pages in this paper.

I'm looking forward to seeing how Chris Cohan does as a contestant. I'm also wondering just how this works out so well: the deadpan homoerotic banter producer/co-host Jimmy Kimmel directs Ben's way every week, such as replying to questions

from Ben with remarks like, "Yes, indeed, my little passion flower." All this comes across as done for comedic effect, but some of us wonder, especially since Ben seems to have gotten a little more campy in the new season. There's even a promo spot in which Jimmy says to Ben, "I love you, Ben."

I suspect the majority of the viewers assume Jimmy's a straight guy joking around; not only does he keep a pretty even demeanor, he'll poke fun at Ben as well. In the *Ben* round, when Ben and the remaining contestants

tant repair to isolation booths for a head-to-head rapid-fire set of questions, Jimmy will encourage that contestant with a remark like, "As host, I must remain neutral ... but since Ben can't hear me, smoke him like a cheap cigar." The obvious lack of fawning, combined with Jimmy's casual masculinity, may be leading most viewers to either presume heterosexuality on his part ... or not care.

Actor Stephen Fry, who does such a great job in *Wilde*, which premiered at the S.F. International Film Festival (Yo Beth sez, check it out), has a similar demeanor ... the kind that plays in Peoria. I think his Oscar Wilde will be a sympathetic character for mainstream audiences precisely because he comes across as a regular guy (or bloke, as the case may be). Fry, like Wilde, is tall and broad-shouldered; Wilde moved about like a man of his size, and so does Fry in the movie. Think what you will of straight people finding it easier to be clear on the concept of queer people who remind them of themselves: it seems to be a phenomenon with a life of its own.

You know what recent thing I found really cute, though? When *Grease* was rereleased for the theaters, I saw an article about preteens and young teens who've created their own fifties nights, inspired by growing up watching the video. They have the poodle skirts, they know the dances ... and they seem to have the exuberance with which rock 'n' roll radio filled me when I was their age. It's as though I can look at them, see myself, and say, "Yeah, that's what I was about!"

Girls are doing cool things these days, and one of the coolest recently was rung up by Emily Rosa of Loveland, Colorado: at 11 years of age, she published her first scientific paper in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Yee flippin' haw ... I'm impressed!

Of course, some readers may not appreciate the particularly anti-crunchy nature of her testing the premise of the alternative medicine practice of therapeutic touch, i.e., the old laying on of hands. Therapeutic touch has become more established than eastern California-bashers might imagine: 40,000 nurses and other caregivers practice this, and 80 hospitals reportedly offer such treatment. The National League

page 25 ►

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# May PolitiCalendar

## A B.A.R. clip 'n' save feature

Meetings of interest to the community throughout May, listed in order of each group's first event this month:

**SF Youth Commission**  
May 7, 21; 5-7 p.m.  
City Hall, Room 207  
401 Van Ness Avenue  
(Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday)  
Info: (415) 554-6446

**Ambiente Latino Democratic Club**  
May 9; 4 p.m.  
(Meets 2nd Saturday)  
Location/info. (415) 239-2221

**Board of Supervisors**  
May 11; 6 p.m.  
May 18, 26; 2 p.m.  
City Hall, 4th floor  
401 Van Ness Avenue  
For committee meetings  
call (415) 554-5184

**Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club**  
May 11; 7-9 p.m.  
Piaf's  
1686 Market Street  
(Meets 2nd Monday)  
Info: (415) 522-3809

**Out on the Island**  
May 11; 7 p.m.  
City of Alameda's gay  
community action group  
(Meets 2nd Monday)  
Location/info. (510) 337-1300

**L/G/B/T Pride  
Celebration Committee**  
May 11, 26; 7:30 p.m.

1390 Market Street,  
Suite 1225  
Fox Plaza office building  
Info: (415) 864-3733

**ACT UP/Golden Gate**  
May 12, 19, 26; 7:30 p.m.  
592 Castro Street  
(Meets every Tuesday)  
Info: (415) 252-9200

**Oakland HIV Health Services  
Planning Council**  
(Alameda, Contra Costa counties)  
May 13; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
(Meets 2nd Wednesday)  
Council's PWA Committee  
May 15; 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
(Meets 2nd Friday)  
Location/info. (510) 741-1856

**HIV Prevention Planning Council**  
May 14, 28; 3-6 p.m.  
Unitarian Church,  
1187 Franklin at Geary  
For committee meetings,  
call (415) 554-9000

**Queer Latino Political  
Action Committee (QL PAC)**  
May 14; 6:30 p.m.  
Women's Building  
3543 18th Street  
(Meets 2nd Thursday)  
Info: (415) 648-3702

**HIV Health Services  
Planning Council**  
May 18; 4:30 p.m.  
SF AIDS Office  
25 Van Ness Avenue, 3rd Floor  
For committee meetings,  
call (415) 554-9136

**SF Health Commission**  
May 19; 3 p.m.  
SF Department  
of Public Health  
101 Grove Street, Room 300  
(Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday)  
Info: (415) 554-2666

**LGBT Advisory Committee  
SF Human Rights Commission**  
May 19; 5:30 p.m.  
25 Van Ness Avenue  
(Meets 3rd Tuesday)  
Info: (415) 252-2500

**L/G/B/T Community  
Center Project Board**  
May 20; 7 p.m.  
City Hall, 3rd floor  
401 Van Ness Avenue,  
Info: (415) 241-1526

**Lesbians and Gays  
of African Descent for  
Democratic Action (LGADDA)**  
May 21; 7 p.m.  
507-B Divisadero  
(Meets 3rd Thursday)  
Info: (415) 273-1108

**Call for information about  
these May meetings:**

**Harvey Milk Democratic Club**  
(415) 751-5364

**Log Cabin Republican Club**  
(415) 522-2944.

**CUSP: Community United  
for Sexual Privacy**  
(415) 627-4019

### AN OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF CITY ATHLETIC CLUB FROM THE STAFF OF MARKET STREET GYM

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May 7, 1998

Dear Members of City Athletic Club:

We, the staff of Market Street Gym, would like to say we're sorry to hear that the City Athletic Club is closing. We know that many of you have been members for many years.

We would also like to warmly welcome you into our club. Market Street Gym is going through a transformation. We are excited about what's happening in our gym and the diversity in our membership and staff. Today, we are making our gym a warm and friendly place for our members to workout. The rise in the diversity of our members in the past year has made Market Street Gym a better place. Even though we are a larger club, we think you will like what you see and find a supportive place to develop physically and personally. And, while we can't really ease the pain of your gym's closing, we can make it easy for you to become members in our wonderful facility. Our regular annual membership is \$465.00. We offer our existing members a renewal rate of \$415.00. We would like to offer you the following:

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- If you join as a group of five or more, we'll lower that price to \$399.00 and include all the above-mentioned benefits (a savings of \$216.00).

For those of you who cannot take advantage of an annual rate offer, we will offer you three months for \$150 and enroll you for free in our Fitness Camp a \$150 value. These offers available through May 31, 1998. Just stop in at our front desk, say you're from the City Athletic Club, and receive a friendly welcome to Market Street Gym.

From the Staff at Market Street Gym

Michael Young, Bob, Edward, and others.

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**IGLIA**



# Reggie continues to preach bigotry

by Don Romesburg,  
GLAAD/SF media resource  
center manager

The media continues to follow Green Bay Packer Reggie White after his March 25 statement to the Wisconsin State Legislature, in which he compared gay people to "liars, cheaters and backstabbers." On an April 27 20/20 interview he claims to "hate the sin/love the sinner," while his wife accuses CBS Sports of dumping White because of pressure from something called "the sodomite community."

White also stated that in calling homosexuality a sin he is "speaking out against things that are hurting our children, and killing off our people. If people think that's a contradiction and that's hate, they need to take it up with God."

On April 24, the *Wall Street Journal* claimed "Minister White is in fact in big trouble for having said, 'Homosexuality is a decision, not a race,'" ignoring his assertion that tolerance of gay people was harmful to America or his comparison of gay people to "liars, cheaters and backstabbers."

Greg Cote in the April 27 *Miami Herald* provided a different perspective, saying, "Disappear, Reggie White." Cote says, "Reggie White has shamed himself. Worse, he has shamed that which he would wrongly hold before him as a shield: His religion."

White is using attacks on the gay community to influence political issues by speaking before the Wisconsin Legislature. In addition, White is currently joining anti-gay radical religious groups in an attempt to repeal a non-discrimination ordinance which

protects people from being fired or thrown out of their home simply on the basis of their sexual orientation. In the United States, something called the Separation of Church and State allows White to hold his divisive and ignorant views, however disappointing and destructive they may be.

Many people of faith, including Coretta Scott King and Rev. Jesse Jackson, disagree with White. Yet White not only believes his view of God is the only right view, he seems to feel it is a justification to deny basic human rights to gay people.

Ask the *Wall Street Journal* why they glossed over the issue in their commentary and commend the *Miami Herald* for calling White on his hypocrisy. Also, ask Nike and S.C. Johnson & Son why they continue to subsidize White's political campaign against gay people through their sponsorship of him.

Contact: Paul Steiger, Managing Editor, *Wall Street Journal*, 200 Liberty St., New York, NY 10281-1003, fax: (212) 416-2658 (fax machine gets turned off at 4 p.m. EST), e-mail: letter.editor@edit.wsj.com; Larry Olmstead, Managing Editor, *Miami Herald*, One Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132-1693, fax: (305) 376-8950, e-mail: HeraldEd@herald.com; Nike Corporation Consumer Relations, phone: (800) 344-6453, e-mail via WWW: <http://www.nike.com/talktous/>; and S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc. Consumer Relations, phone: (800) 558-5566, e-mail via WWW: [http://www.scjohnson-wax.com/crc\\_form.html](http://www.scjohnson-wax.com/crc_form.html)

## Mad about marriage

On the April 28 episode of NBC's *Mad About You*, resident lesbian couple Debbie (Robin Bartlett) and Joan (Suzie Plakson) learn lessons of commitment and re-evaluate their relationship after escaping from a restaurant fire. At the beginning of the episode, Debbie, Paul's (Paul Reiser) sister, finds out that her girlfriend Joan is being featured in a magazine as one of the most "eligible bachelorettes" in New York. Debbie is offended that Joan would even consider being interviewed and reminds her that they are in a long-term relationship. Later, a fire breaks out in the restaurant they are dining in. The two realize that life is precious and that they should get married. Troubles again arise when Joan discusses signing a pre-nuptial agreement. In the end however, Joan proves to Debbie that she means everything to her by offering her a blank check. The two resolve their problems and the wedding is back on.

Debbie and Joan are two of the best lesbian or gay characters on television today. Their marriage is the next natural step in their relationship, especially relevant on a sitcom about couplehood. This particular issue is an important one, especially in light of the forthcoming judgment in Hawaii, as well as the ongoing Supreme Court cases in Alaska and Vermont, which will set precedent on same-sex marriage.

Please thank NBC and *Mad About You* for depicting such wonderful lesbian characters in real life situations. Also, check out *Mad About You's* season finale on

May 19 when Ellen DeGeneres makes a cameo as Paul and Jamie's (Helen Hunt) nanny.

Contact: Warren Littlefield, President of Entertainment, NBC, 3000 W. Alameda Ave., Burbank, CA 91523-0001, e-mail: [mad@nbc.com](mailto:mad@nbc.com); Victor Levin, Danny Jacobson and Paul Reiser, Executive Producers, and Helen Hunt, Co-Executive Producer, *Mad About You*, TriStar Television, 9336 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232, feedback form: <http://www.spe.sony.com/tv/shows/mad/index.html> (click on "connection")

## Four lesbians featured in Congressional Quarterly

The April 25 *Congressional Quarterly* features an article on four lesbians who are currently vying for seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. "There has never been a woman in Congress who has publicly stated she is gay. In fact, there has never been a gay candidate, male or female, elected as a non-incumbent," it says.

"With candidates such as [former Massachusetts state Rep. Susan] Tracy, who is running for the open seat of retiring Democratic Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, that could soon change.... In the current political climate, where many Americans seem to draw distinctions between politicians' public lives and their private ones, some observers say sexual orientation may not matter on the campaign trail as much as it once did."

Still, opponents sometimes use sexual orientation as a wedge tactic, it notes. The other three openly lesbian candidates mentioned in the article are Wisconsin State Rep. Tammy Baldwin, San Diego City Councilwoman Christine Kehoe, and retired

Army Col. Margaret Cammermeyer.

"As gay and lesbian candidates become more well-known and increasingly win their parties' nomination, it is likely that grassroots conservatives will become involved in trying to defeat them," it says. "With term limits forcing state and local legislators out of office at a faster clip, though, it is likely that more gay elected officials will run for Congress in the coming cycles. With the support of [gay political advocacy] groups and a patchwork of other politically active blocs, Tracy hopes the public is ready to make history."

Please thank the *Congressional Quarterly* for a balanced and interesting article about the challenges and victories lesbian and gay candidates face in today's political landscape.

Contact: Sara Fritz, Assistant Managing Editor, *Congressional Quarterly*, 1414 22nd St. NW, Washington, DC 20037-1096, fax: (202) 785-8784

## GLAADAlert Reminder: Labor of Love to air

On Monday, May 4, Lifetime Television will premiere *Labor of Love*, the story of a gay man and his best friend who are trying to have a baby together. ▼

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# Jim Gabbert sex harassment case settled

by Dennis Conkin

Former KOFY-TV station owner Jim Gabbert has agreed to an out-of-court settlement with a former station employee who sued over alleged sexual harassment.

The undisclosed cash settlement, reached between Gabbert and Roger Mele, a former KOFY traffic coordinator, abruptly ended a San Francisco Superior Court civil court trial on the charges.

As a part of the settlement Gabbert will also drop existing litigation against attorney Paul Wotman, which he had filed over the gay lawyer's litigation of the case.

Before the settlement ended the lawsuit, Dr. Edward Hyman, a clinical and forensic psychologist, testified that Mele suffered serious psychological problems consistent with his claims. Hyman, an expert witness who has testified in thousands of court cases, told the jury seated before Superior Court Judge Diane Wick that Mele also suffered a long-standing condition known as dependent personality disorder.

Hyman testified under cross-examination by attorney Joe Schwacter that he was not present to tell the jury whether the allegations of sexual harassment "are accurate or not," but to explain what "is psychologically going on with Mr. Mele."

If I'd done an assessment of Mr. Gabbert, I could tell what was going on with Mr. Gabbert," Hyman said.

According to Hyman, Mele was not malingering or exaggerating his problems, but felt trapped and threatened, was worried and agitated, responded with anxiety and nervousness, and had grown isolated and withdrawn as a result of the alleged sexual harassment he experienced on his first job in the television industry.

"He felt he was faring well, doing good things and he was very upset that the feedback he was getting was about what his boss would like to do with him sexually," Hyman said.

The expert testified at the conclusion of Mele's direct examination by his attorney Paul Wotman, and cross examination by Schwacter, a partner in the man-



Jim Gabbert

agement defense firm of Littler, Mendleson.

## Not pleased

Mele, a graduate of Boston University with a degree in mass communications, began working for the independent station as a traffic coordinator in 1991, quit in 1993, but returned to the station in 1994. He quit again in 1995 and later filed suit against Gabbert.

Mele, 29, testified that he his first met Gabbert while they were passing on a stairwell at the station and that he felt Gabbert was "leering at me."

"I got weird energy, weird vibes," Mele told the jury.

He said that shortly after their meeting, Gabbert "kept looking over at" him as another employee in Mele's work area had a conversation with Gabbert.

"I thought it was odd," he testified. "When he left, [the co-worker] said, 'Oh, he likes you, he never comes in here.'"

Mele alleged that the first incident of harassment occurred during a 1991 Halloween party when Gabbert came in the office wearing a utility belt he used when working on the television station's tower and looped it around Mele's body so they were touching.

"He said, 'I'd like to ride your pole,'" Mele testified.

Mele said he felt embarrassed by Gabbert's act, that it had happened in front of other people, and that he was concerned co-

workers might think that he encouraged the behavior in some way. "I was not pleased to be in that situation," he said.

In other situations, Mele told the jury that Gabbert grabbed his butt, and that while on a resort trip with other KOFY workers Gabbert came into his cabin and suddenly threw Mele's legs up in the air.

"I felt so nervous. He touched my crotch. I didn't want it to be happening. I was struggling to get away. I was getting really nervous," Mele said.

In addition, Mele alleged, Gabbert frequently discussed his sex life and sexual characteristics of others, and repeatedly asked Mele to have an affair — allegedly even offering offered him inducements such as "\$50,000 or a Jeep Cherokee."

"I felt like I was being targeted," Mele said.

## 'Let Gabbert play'

Mele also recounted an incident in a hot tub at Gabbert's Russian River residence in 1993, where Mele alleged he had been forcibly restrained and stripped of his boxer shorts while a friend of Gabbert's briefly performed oral sex on him against his will — and that Gabbert also started to "feel me up" and attempted to fondle him.

"I didn't want him to do that to me. There was just no way," Mele said. "I was devastated. It was an appalling act."

"I hit him with my right hand and he slipped on the edge of the hot tub and went under the water. He came out and his hair was all tousled."

Mele testified that Gabbert told him after the incident that "nothing happened." He said under cross-examination that he felt no sexual attraction for the individual who had his mouth on Mele's penis, did not remember being alone in the hot tub with him, and denied that the two had started a sexual encounter when they were alone in the tub.

"Isn't it true that after the hot tub incident, you asked Mr. Gabbert for a raise?" Schwacter asked Mele.

Mele testified that he wasn't expecting the raise, didn't remember asking for it, and that when

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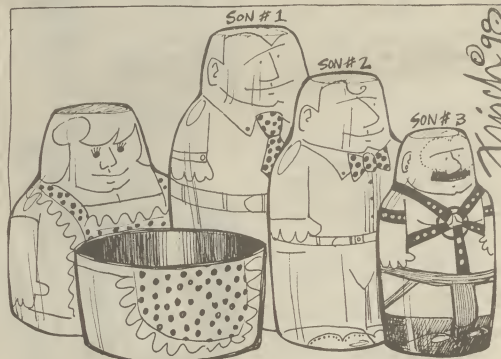
# How mom put the H-Y in homosexuality

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Genes aren't everything! From a "born-that-way" advocate like myself, that may seem like a surprising admission, but it's true: for most aspects of our psychological make-up, including our sexual orientation, genes are no more than about half the reason why we end up the way we do. So what else is involved?

One possible factor that's been looked at is birth order. MIT psychologist Frank Sulloway, who created quite a stir with his 1996 book *Born To Rebel*, believes that early- and late-born children develop in fundamentally different ways, because they are exposed to different family dynamics. Early-born children, he says, tend to be ambitious defenders of the status quo, while late-born children have to carve out their own niche, often developing an unorthodox or creative personality in the process.

If Sulloway is right, one might expect gay people to be later-born, for homosexuality is certainly unorthodox, at least in our society, and gay people are often credited with being unusually creative. The question of gay people's birth order had been studied extensively by Ray Blanchard and Tony Bogaert at the Clarke Institute of Psy-



chiatry in Toronto. From their reviews of previous scientific literature, as well as from a number of studies they have carried out themselves, they conclude that there is indeed a connection between birth order and sexual orientation, but their interpretation of this finding is quite different from what one might expect.

Their basic finding is that, in a large number of studies, gay men are on average slightly later-born than straight men. Male-to-female transsexuals, as well as gender-nonconformist boys (who will probably become gay men), are even more likely to be late-born. Lesbians, on the other hand, have the same average birth-order position as heterosexual women.

Looking more carefully at the data for gay men, Blanchard and Bogaert observed that their relatively late birth order was due to an excess of older brothers, rather than older sisters. In fact, for every older brother a boy has, his chances of becoming gay are increased by about 33 percent. But since the prevalence of male homosexuality is only about four percent, a boy would have to have at least 11 older brothers before he had even a 50:50 chance of becoming gay. So the birth-order effect is really quite a weak one.

Sulloway himself has noted the connection between birth order and male sexual orientation. In his book, he suggests that later-born boys are freer to experiment sexually, and that this may lead them to experience homosexual attractions that their older brothers never discover.

It certainly true that, in many cultures, the oldest son is more strongly pressured toward marriage and fatherhood than younger sons. But, against Sulloway's interpretation, there is good evidence that experimentation with gay sex during the formative years has no influence on a person's ultimate sexual orientation. For example, a 1994 British study found that boys who attend all-boys boarding schools engage in more same-sex experimentation than other boys, but are no more likely to be gay in adulthood.

Blanchard and Bogaert have proposed a quite different, biological interpretation. They suggest that women who are carrying a male fetus are exposed to proteins or other substances, produced by the fetus, that are specific to males. These substances include, for example, the so-called "H-Y antigen," which is thought to play a role in male development. The woman may develop antibodies to such substances, and these antibodies may influence the sexual development of subsequent male fetuses. The more times the woman is pregnant with a male child, according to this theory, the higher the levels of such antibodies that build in her blood, and the greater the likelihood that the fetus's brain will develop in a less than stereotypically masculine fashion.

The Canadian scientists don't claim to have discovered the "cause of male homosexuality," for birth order is just one a number of factors that influence a

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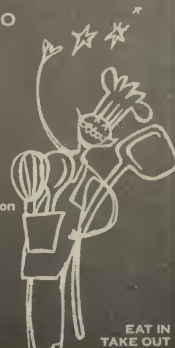
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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Castro fest, orchids, quilts, and sex tour highlight Mother's Day

by Mark Mardon

Whether your tastes tend toward outdoor family festivals, or indoor orchid shopping, or viewing quilts and helping to combat AIDS, or (for kinkier mothers) taking a sex-history tour, there's plenty to do this Mother's Day weekend.

Strolling accordionists, magic acts, comedians, singers, dancers, lots of balloons and streamers, and general merriment will all be part of the first Lavender Community Mother's Day Celebration, to be held outdoors in the Castro this Sunday, May 10, from 3 to 7 p.m.

Mothers, sons, daughters, and even fathers will gather for the occasion at the Eureka Valley Recreational Park and Rikki Strikker

clude the O'Farrell Theater, the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic, the former Maiden Lane, the Bohemian Club, the St. Francis Hotel, the Examiner Building, Golden Gate Park, and the Great American Music Hall.

The guided tour, beginning at 1 p.m., coincides with *Playboy* magazine's current chronicle of sex in America during the 20th Century. Mothers interested in taking the tour may reserve places by phoning (212) 691-1555. Non-mothers must pony up \$14 to participate.

## Dip her in flower

Thousands of orchid plants donated by orchid nurseries around the world will be on sale Mother's Day weekend, May 9 and 10, at OrchidMania's 9th annual "orchid garage sale" in San Francisco. Pro-

about 50 amateur orchid growers.

## MOM and quilts

In honor of mothers who have lost children to AIDS, a panel of the NAMES Quilt will be on display at City Hall beginning at 2 p.m. Mother's Day. Supervisor Mabel Teng, who arranged the display, is encouraging visitors to sign a letter to Governor Pete Wilson, asking his support for three pieces of HIV-related legislation.

Also, Meals of Marin will display a different AIDS quilt, called the Children's AIDS Quilt of Hope, beginning at 6 p.m. tonight (Thursday, May 7). Alexander's Decorative Rugs, located at 383 Miller Avenue in Mill Valley, will display more than 50 3'x4' panels created by children, expressing feelings about disease and hunger and imagining a future without AIDS. Some of the children have experienced the impact of AIDS on family and friends.

MOM, an organization providing "nourishment, comfort, hope, and dignity for homebound people with AIDS," hopes to raise \$5,000 by having people sponsor individual panels in the quilt.

For more information, contact Lynne Klein at Meals of Marin, at (415) 457-4666. ▼

Field, the ball diamond at Collingwood Park, at 19th and Collingwood streets.

The family-oriented event, sponsored by The Lavender Pages, a local publishing company, will be hosted by stand-up comics Danny Williams and Suzy Berger. Featured performers include The Barbary Coast Cloggers; dance teacher Gerri Shapiro and 100 of her students; flamenco dancer Rosa Montoya; the Dixieland Dykes; Second Nature; the Andrew Sisters and their orchestra; and Connie Champagne and her Tiny Bubbles.

Also that day, mothers are invited to participate free in *Playboy's* "History of the Sexual Revolution" tour, which takes in several San Francisco sites that have helped shape sexual politics in America, whether straight, gay, or anywhere else along the spectrum.

Among the sites surveyed are Gallery Six, where Allen Ginsberg first read from his revolutionary poem *Howl*; and City Hall, where gay supervisor Harvey Milk was assassinated, and where a municipality first recognized domestic partnership. Other locations in-

ceeds from the sale will benefit nine grassroots AIDS organizations in the United States, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.

The popular event will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at the Firehouse at Fort Mason. Admission to the sale is free. A special "breakfast preview" sale will take place on Saturday from 8:30 to 10 a.m. for a donation of \$15 or more.

Among the organizations benefiting from this year's sale are BAHSES (Bay Area HIV Support Education Services, founded by Black and White Men Together/Men of All Colors Together and serving five Bay Area counties); the Genard AIDS Foundation of Contra Costa County; and NEED, a syringe-exchange program in Berkeley.

Also receiving funds will be AIDS/HIV organizations in Seattle; Jakarta, Indonesia; Chiang Main, Thailand; Kandal Province, Cambodia; and Santiago, Chile.

For more information phone (415) 841-1678 or visit the OrchidMania website at [www.orchids.org](http://www.orchids.org). OrchidMania is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization run by

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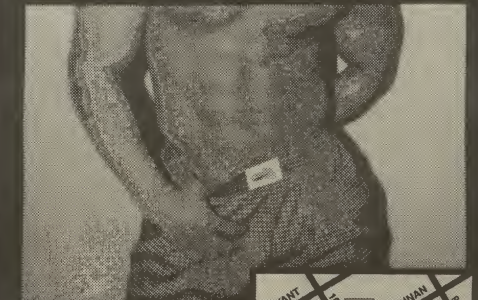


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## Broommates sought:

# Second 'Great Sweep' this Saturday

by Cynthia Laird

It isn't only the free brooms that organizers are depending upon.

Backers of the second "Great Sweep" this Saturday, May 9 are also relying on civic pride to prompt thousands of San Franciscans to join the litter clean-up day from one end of town to the other.

This event follows the first Great Sweep in November, when 10,000 citizens took part. Mayor Willie Brown, who has been behind both volunteer-driven efforts, noted that even in one of the most beautiful cities in the world, tons of litter "is carelessly disposed of on city streets" and has urged citizens to come on out and pitch in.

Openly gay San Francisco International Airport employee Dan Seaver is the district captain in the Castro. Seaver, who was recently in the predominantly gay neighborhood encouraging people to take part in the event, told the B.A.R. that the key to volunteering for the Great Sweep II is calling ahead; people who sign in once they show up will be eligible to win raffle prizes, but nobody will walk away empty-handed.

"People get to keep the brooms and gloves," Seaver said, and of

course, "trash bags will be provided."

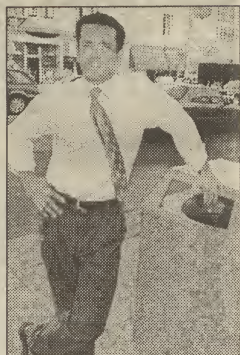
From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the sidewalks and streets should be on their way to becoming cleaner. Other openly gay officials helping in District 8 (which includes the Castro) are Treasurer Susan Leal, Airport Director John Martin, HIV/AIDS Policy Advisor Dick Pabich, and mayoral aide Michael Colbruno, Seaver added. The city-wide event is a joint effort between the Department of Public Works and Norcal Solid Waste Systems.

The mayor was extremely pleased with the turnout last fall at the first Great Sweep, and is expecting nothing less this time around. "Taking individual responsibility for the sparkling city that we call home is what the Great Sweep is all about," the mayor stated in a flyer promoting the event.

"I didn't know what to expect in the early morning hours of the first Great Sweep. Would I be standing alone in the fog with my broom and dustpan? The answer came from every corner of the city, a resounding 'No!'" The huge show of public support resulted in gutters being swept, as well as lots of litter being picked up.

Once people call and sign up, they should arrive at one of many sites located throughout the city. In District 8, sites include:

- Harvey Milk Academy, 19th



O Captain!: Dan Seaver

and Collingwood streets  
• Eureka branch of the public library, 3555 16th Street

• The Women's Building, 3542 18th Street  
• Fire station, 100 Hoffman Avenue

• Fire station, 3880 26th Street  
• Upper Noe Recreation Center on 30th Street

• Glen Park branch of the public library, 653 Cherry Street

• Glen Park Recreation Center, Bosworth and O'Shaughnessy streets. ▼

Call (415) 554-5447 to volunteer for the Great Sweep, or check out the web site at [www.citysearch.com/sfo/greatsweep](http://www.citysearch.com/sfo/greatsweep).



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FORTOVASE therapy releases more HIV-fighting medicine into the blood compared to INVIRASE® (saquinavir mesylate), the original form of saquinavir, at recommended dosages.

## REDUCE HIV

After 4 months of treatment, HIV was reduced to undetectable levels\* in most patients taking FORTOVASE plus two nucleoside analogues as their first HIV therapy, compared to less than half of patients taking INVIRASE plus two nucleoside analogues.

## KEEP SIDE EFFECTS LOW

FORTOVASE, like INVIRASE, is generally well tolerated. The majority of side effects are mild. In patients taking FORTOVASE with two nucleoside analogues, the most common side effects were nausea, diarrhea, upset stomach and heartburn.

## ACHIEVE MAXIMUM BENEFIT

The recommended dosage of FORTOVASE is convenient and easy to remember—six capsules, taken three times a day with meals or within 2 hours after a meal. It is important to take your medication every day, as prescribed.

## TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR

There are some medications that should not be taken with FORTOVASE. Be sure to tell your doctor all of the medicines that you are now taking or plan to take. There have also been reports of worsening liver problems in patients taking FORTOVASE. Additional side effects reported with protease inhibitors include increased blood sugar levels, new onset or worsening of diabetes and increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia. Talk to your doctor for more information regarding side effects that may accompany this medication.

NOTE: FORTOVASE and INVIRASE are not the same and should not be used interchangeably.

\*Below the amount that could be found using a standard test.

**FORTOVASE™**  
(saquinavir) Soft Gel Capsules

RELEASE THE POWER

Please see product information about  
FORTOVASE on the adjacent page.



## FORTOBASE™ (saquinavir) Soft Gelatin Capsules

FORTOBASE™ (saquinavir)

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE:** FORTOBASE is indicated for use in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. This indication is based on a study that showed a reduction in both mortality and AIDS-defining clinical events for patients who received INVIRASE® (saquinavir mesylate) in combination with ZIDV® (zalcitabine) compared to patients who received either ZIDV or INVIRASE alone. This indication is also based on studies that showed increased saquinavir concentrations and improved antiviral activity for FORTOBASE 1200 mg tid compared to INVIRASE 600 mg tid.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** FORTOBASE is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to saquinavir or to any of the components contained in the capsule.

FORTOBASE should not be administered concurrently with terfenadine, cisapride, astemizole, triazolam, midazolam or ergot derivatives, because competition for CYP3A by saquinavir could result in inhibition of the metabolism of these drugs and create the potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions such as cardiac arrhythmias or prolonged sedation (see PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions).

**WARNINGS:** New onset diabetes mellitus, exacerbation of pre-existing diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia have been reported during postmarketing surveillance in HIV-infected patients receiving protease-inhibitor therapy. Some patients required either initiation or dose adjustments of insulin or oral hypoglycemic agents for the treatment of these events. In some cases diabetic ketoacidosis has occurred. In those patients who discontinued protease-inhibitor therapy, hyperglycemia persisted in some cases. Because these events have been reported voluntarily during clinical practice, estimates of frequency cannot be made and a causal relationship between protease-inhibitor therapy and these events has not been established.

**PRECAUTIONS: General:** If a serious or severe toxicity occurs during treatment with FORTOBASE, FORTOBASE should be interrupted until the etiology of the event is identified or the toxicity resolves. At that time, resumption of treatment with full-dose FORTOBASE may be considered.

Preliminary results from a pharmacokinetic substudy of NV15182 from patients sampled between weeks 61 to 69 of treatment showed that the mean saquinavir AUC was lower than the week 3 mean AUC from study NV15107. However, the mean AUC of saquinavir at week 61 to 69 remained higher than the mean AUC of INVIRASE in study NV15107 (see complete product information, CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics). The clinical significance of this finding is unknown.

**Hepatic Insufficiency:** Saquinavir is principally metabolized by the liver. Therefore, caution should be exercised when administering FORTOBASE to patients with hepatic insufficiency since patients with baseline liver function tests >5 times the upper limit of normal were not included in clinical studies. Although a causal relationship has not been established, there have been reports of exacerbation of chronic liver dysfunction, including portal hypertension, in patients with underlying hepatitis B or C, cirrhosis or other underlying liver abnormalities.

**Hemophilia:** There have been reports of spontaneous bleeding in patients with hemophilia A and B treated with protease inhibitors. In some patients additional factor VIII was required. In the majority of reported cases treatment with protease inhibitors was continued or restarted. A causal relationship between protease-inhibitor therapy and these episodes has not been established.

**Resistance/Cross-resistance:** Varying degrees of cross-resistance among protease inhibitors have been observed. Continued administration of saquinavir therapy following loss of viral suppression may increase the likelihood of cross-resistance to other protease inhibitors (see complete product information, MICROBIOLOGY).

**Information for Patients:** Patients should be informed: (1) Any change from INVIRASE to FORTOBASE should be made only under the supervision of a physician; (2) FORTOBASE is not a cure for HIV infection and they may continue to contract illnesses associated with advanced HIV infection, including opportunistic infections; (3) FORTOBASE therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination; (4) FORTOBASE may interact with some drugs; therefore, patients should be advised to report to their physician the use of any other prescription or nonprescription medication; (5) FORTOBASE should be taken within 2 hours after a full meal (see complete product information, CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics); (6) Of the importance of taking their medication every day, as prescribed, to achieve maximum benefit. Patients should not alter the dose or discontinue therapy without consulting their physician. If a dose is missed, patients should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, the patient should not double the next dose; (7) The long-term effects of FORTOBASE are unknown at this time; (8) Refrigerated (36° to 46°F/2° to 8°C) capsules of FORTOBASE remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. Once brought to room temperature [at or below 77°F (25°C)], capsules should be used within 3 months.

**Laboratory Tests:** Clinical chemistry tests should be performed prior to initiating FORTOBASE therapy and at appropriate intervals thereafter. Elevated nonfasting triglyceride levels have been observed in patients in saquinavir trials. Triglyceride levels should be periodically monitored during therapy. For comprehensive information concerning laboratory test alterations associated with use of other antiretroviral therapies, physicians should refer to the complete product information for these drugs.

**Drug Interactions:** Several drug interaction studies have been completed with both INVIRASE and FORTOBASE. Observations from drug interaction studies with INVIRASE may not be predictive for FORTOBASE.

**ANTIBIOTICS:** Clarithromycin: Coadministration of clarithromycin with FORTOBASE resulted in a 177% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC, a 45% increase in clarithromycin AUC and a 24% decrease in clarithromycin 14-OH metabolite AUC.

**ANTIHISTAMINES:** Terfenadine: Coadministration of terfenadine with FORTOBASE resulted in increased terfenadine plasma levels; therefore, FORTOBASE should not be administered concurrently with terfenadine because of the potential for serious and/or life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias. Astemizole: Because a similar interaction to that seen with terfenadine is likely from the coadministration of FORTOBASE and astemizole, FORTOBASE should not be administered concurrently with astemizole.

**HIV PROTEASE INHIBITORS:** Indinavir: Coadministration of indinavir with FORTOBASE (1200-mg single dose) resulted in a 364% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination. Nelfinavir: Coadministration of nelfinavir with FORTOBASE resulted in an 18% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC and a 392% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination. Ritonavir: Following approximately 4 weeks of a combination regimen of saquinavir (400 mg or 600 mg bid) and ritonavir (400 mg or 600 mg bid) in HIV-infected patients, saquinavir AUC values were at least 17-fold greater than historical AUC values from patients who received saquinavir 600 mg tid without ritonavir. When used in combination therapy for up to 24 weeks, doses greater than 400 mg bid of either ritonavir or saquinavir were associated with an increase in adverse events. Plasma exposures achieved with INVIRASE (400 mg bid) and ritonavir (400 mg bid) are similar to those achieved with FORTOBASE (400 mg bid) and ritonavir (400 mg bid).

**HIV REVERSE-TRANSCRIPTASE INHIBITORS:** No interaction with saquinavir is expected.

**HIV NON-NUCLEOSIDE REVERSE-TRANSCRIPTASE INHIBITORS:** Delavirdine: Coadministration of delavirdine with INVIRASE resulted in a 5-fold increase in saquinavir plasma AUC. Currently there are limited safety and no efficacy data available from the use of this combination. In a small, preliminary study, hepatocellular enzyme elevations occurred in 13% of subjects during the first several weeks of the delavirdine and saquinavir combination (6% Grade 3 or 4). Hepatocellular changes should be monitored frequently if this combination is prescribed. Nevirapine: Coadministration of nevirapine with INVIRASE resulted in a 24% decrease in saquinavir plasma AUC. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

**ANTIFUNGAL AGENTS:** Ketoconazole: Coadministration of ketoconazole with INVIRASE resulted in a 130% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC.

**ANTIMYCOBACTERIAL AGENTS:** Rifabutin: Coadministration of rifabutin with INVIRASE (saquinavir mesylate) resulted in a 43% decrease in saquinavir plasma AUC. Physicians should consider using an alternative to rifabutin when a patient is taking FORTOBASE. Rifampin: Coadministration of rifampin with INVIRASE resulted in an 84% decrease in saquinavir plasma AUC. Physicians should consider using an alternative to rifampin when a patient is taking FORTOBASE.

**H<sub>2</sub> ANTAGONISTS:** Ranitidine: Little or no change in the pharmacokinetics of INVIRASE was observed when coadministered with ranitidine. No significant interaction would be expected between FORTOBASE and ranitidine.

**GI MOTILITY AGENTS:** Cisapride: Cisapride should not be administered concurrently with FORTOBASE because of the potential for serious and/or life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias.

Other potential drug interactions that may decrease saquinavir plasma concentrations include: anticonvulsants — carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin; corticosteroids — dexamethasone.

**Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis and Impairment of Fertility:** Carcinogenesis: Carcinogenicity studies in rats and mice have not yet been completed.

**Mutagenesis:** Mutagenicity and genotoxicity studies, with and without metabolic activation where appropriate, have shown that saquinavir has no mutagenic activity in vitro in either bacterial (Ames test) or mammalian cells (Chinese hamster lung V79/HPRT test). Saquinavir does not induce chromosomal damage in vivo in the mouse micronucleus assay or in vitro in human peripheral blood lymphocytes and does not induce primary DNA damage in vitro in the unscheduled DNA synthesis test.

**Impairment of Fertility:** Fertility and reproductive performance were not affected in rats at plasma exposures (AUC values) approximately 50% of those achieved in humans at the recommended dose.

**Pregnancy:** Teratogenic Effects: Category B. Reproduction studies conducted with saquinavir in rats have shown no embryotoxicity or teratogenicity at plasma exposures (AUC values) approximately 50% of those achieved in humans at the recommended dose or in rabbits at plasma exposures approximately 40% of those achieved at the recommended clinical dose of FORTOBASE. Distribution studies in these species showed that placental transfer of saquinavir is low (less than 5% of maternal plasma concentrations).

Studies in rats indicated that exposure to saquinavir from late pregnancy through lactation at plasma concentrations (AUC values) approximately 50% of those achieved in humans at the recommended dose of FORTOBASE had no effect on the survival, growth and development of offspring to weaning. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, FORTOBASE should only be used during pregnancy after taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother. Presently, there are no reports of women receiving FORTOBASE in clinical trials who became pregnant.

**Nursing Mothers:** The US Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises HIV-infected women not to breastfeed to avoid postnatal transmission of HIV to a child who may not be infected. It is not known whether saquinavir is excreted in human milk.

**Pediatric Use:** Safety and effectiveness of FORTOBASE in HIV-infected pediatric patients younger than 16 years of age have not been established.

**Geriatric Use:** Safety and effectiveness of FORTOBASE in HIV-infected geriatric patients older than 65 years of age have not been established.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS** (see PRECAUTIONS): The safety of FORTOBASE was studied in more than 500 patients who received the drug either alone or in combination with other antiretroviral agents. The majority of treatment-related adverse events were of mild intensity. The most frequently reported treatment-emergent adverse events among patients receiving FORTOBASE in combination with other antiretroviral agents were diarrhea, nausea, abdominal discomfort and dyspepsia.

Clinical adverse events of at least moderate intensity which occurred in ≥2% of patients in studies NV15182 and NV15355 are summarized in Table A. The median duration of treatment in studies NV15182 and NV15355 were 52 and 18 weeks, respectively. In NV15182, more than 300 patients were on treatment for approximately 1 year.

Table A. Percent of Patients With Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events\* of At Least Moderate Intensity, Occurring in ≥2% of Patients

ADVERSE EVENT	NV15182 (48 weeks) FORTOBASE + 2DC <sup>1</sup> N=442	NV15355 (16 weeks) Naïve Patients	
		INVIRASE + 2 RTIs <sup>2</sup> N=81	FORTOBASE + 2 RTIs <sup>2</sup> N=90
Diarrhea	19.9	12.3	15.6
Nausea	10.6	13.6	17.8
Abdominal Discomfort	8.6	4.9	13.3
Dyspepsia	8.4	—	8.9
Flatulence	5.7	7.4	12.2
Vomiting	2.9	1.2	4.4
Abdominal Pain	2.3	1.2	7.8
Constipation	—	—	3.3
Fatigue	4.8	6.2	6.7
Headaches	5.0	4.9	* 8.9
Depression	2.7	—	—
Insomnia	—	1.2	5.6
Anxiety	—	2.5	2.2
Libido Disorder	—	—	2.2
Taste Alteration	—	1.2	4.4
Pain	—	3.7	3.3
Eczema	—	2.5	—
Rash	—	2.5	—
Verruca	—	—	2.2

\* Includes adverse events at least possibly related to study drug or of unknown intensity and/or relationship to treatment (corresponding to ACTG Grade 3 and 4). <sup>1</sup>Antiretroviral Treatment of Choice. <sup>2</sup>Reverse-Transcriptase Inhibitor.

FORTOBASE did not appear to alter the pattern, frequency or severity of known major toxicities associated with the use of nucleoside analogues. Physicians should refer to the complete product information for other antiretroviral agents as appropriate for drug-associated adverse reactions to these other agents.

Rare occurrences of the following serious adverse experiences have been reported during clinical trials of FORTOBASE and/or INVIRASE and were considered at least possibly related to use of study drugs: confusion, ataxia and weakness; seizures; headache; acute myeloblastic leukemia; hemolytic anemia; thrombocytopenia; thrombocytopenia and intracranial hemorrhage leading to death; attempted suicide; Stevens-Johnson syndrome; bullous skin eruption and polyarthritides; severe cutaneous reaction associated with increased liver function tests; isolated elevation of transaminases; exacerbation of chronic liver disease with Grade 4 elevated liver function tests, jaundice, ascites, and right and left upper quadrant abdominal pain; pancreatitis leading to death; intestinal obstruction; portal hypertension; thrombophlebitis; peripheral vasoconstriction; drug fever; nephrolithiasis; and acute renal insufficiency.

Table B summarizes the percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities in study NV15182 and NV15355 (median duration of treatment was 52 and 18 weeks, respectively). In study NV15182, by 48 weeks <1% of patients discontinued treatment due to laboratory abnormalities.



## Hit man case

◀ page 1

tion service.

Michael Merrill, an accomplice in the case, pleaded guilty last year to being an accessory to the crime and is currently serving a three-year state prison sentence.

Police arrested Parkison at a Concord shopping mall in 1996, after he paid a second \$5,000 fee to an undercover police officer who posed as a hit man who had already strangled Swan.

The Concord detective showed Parkison faked photos of Swan, who had cooperated with law enforcement officials and posed as a murder victim. Other undercover officers videotaped the cash payoff to the "hit man," and then arrested Parkison and Merrill.

Parkison had attempted to arrange the murder-for-hire through massage therapist employee Vickie Ramsey, who contacted Concord police.

In an exclusive *Bay Area Reporter* interview from jail shortly after his 1996 arrest, Parkison alleged that he was the victim of anti-gay East Concord bias, but also acknowledged that he "basically went crazy" and was forced to "do something" to protect himself from Swan, who he claimed was emotionally unstable.

However, during the East Bay

trial, veteran Contra Costa County prosecutor Larry Barnes introduced evidence that Parkison had taken out a life insurance policy on his onetime lover and had even tried to collect early death payments from a viatical insurance company — by falsely impersonating the actual policy holder. When insurance investigators checked out the claim, Parkison tried to claim that he had recovered from his close call with death.

### An insult to PWAs

Parkison's attorney argued at the trial that Ramsey pushed Parkison to proceed with hiring a killer, and introduced a tape recording where Parkison said he was no longer interested in hiring a hit man and that God would deal with Swan.

Although Parkison's attorney introduced an expert medical witness paid by the defense, who said that frontal lobe brain damage causing dementia by infection with HIV was the likely cause of Parkison's criminal activity, the prosecution rejected the claim.

While awaiting trial Parkison was recharged with soliciting the murder-for-hire of witnesses in the case, allegedly trying to make the arrangements from the Martinez Detention Center where he has been held on \$10 million bail since his arrest.

During his closing arguments,

Barnes told the jury that it must render its decision on the factual evidence and that verdicts based on sympathy or compassion were not allowed under California law, and he called Parkison's use of the AIDS dementia defense "an insult" to the millions of people suffering from AIDS around the

world.

Parkison was diagnosed with HIV infection in 1992. In his jailhouse interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, he claimed that he was not receiving AIDS medication, but is currently being treated with protease inhibitors.

Before his arrival in California

in the early 1990s, Parkison had been in trouble with Oklahoma State Medical Board authorities for violations related to prescribing controlled substances. He is no longer licensed as a physician in California.

Parkison's sentencing date was unavailable as of press time. ▼

## HMO suicide

◀ page 1

him from hurting himself or others. After police shut off the freeways just before rush hour, he unfurled a banner that read, "HMOs are in it for the money. Live free, love safe, or die."

He sat inside the truck patting Gladdis, who sat beside him on the front seat, until the truck suddenly burst into flames, fed by a five-gallon container of gasoline and Molotov cocktails.

Jones fled the truck and pulled off his burning clothes, then shot himself under the chin with the shotgun as millions of shocked TV viewers watched live on local stations and the MSNBC cable

edged this week that they have denied the requests of some media outlets to release the farewell message, and said they will return the tape to Jones's family members, who do not wish to make it public.

San Francisco Assemblywoman Carole Migden told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she thought Jones's suicide was "horrifying," but that "his cries echo those of thousands of Californians."

In the two years Migden has been a legislator in Sacramento, Governor Pete Wilson has ruthlessly vetoed attempts to reform the HMO situation in California. However, she said, the climate for change may be better this season.

"There is a slew of HMO bills coming through this year," she said. "They have bipartisan sup-

## "His cries echo those of thousands of Californians."

—California Assemblywoman Carole Migden

channel. Most of the stations that broadcast the suicide later apologized to viewers for the graphic nature of the tragedy.

Investigators found Gladdis remains inside the truck.

Jones's neighbors described the hotel maintenance worker as polite, and said they were shocked he had taken his life so dramatically.

The message Jones worked so hard to bring to others' attention may never get the final airing he had envisioned, as the story of his death was quickly eclipsed by the controversy over whether the stations that aired the suicide had acted responsibly.

Television stations were roundly criticized for exposing viewers to the violence of the suicide, particularly those channels that had interrupted children's programming to air the standoff as it developed. Stations caught in the controversy seemed eager to move the story out of the spotlight, and reported on Jones's motives reluctantly, if at all, when they subsequently became known.

Los Angeles police acknowl-

port; the California public is united, and it's no longer seen as a Democratic [Party] issue."

Among the bills she listed were measures that "ensure people can have access to specialists and have a right to a second opinion, and my bill sets up a grievance procedure for people who are dissatisfied with their HMO's mediation process."

Although many health advocates and activists have blamed Wilson's foot-dragging for the continued deterioration of healthcare, Migden diplomatically declined to debate the governor's past performance.

"Yes I think it took a while for Democrats to convince Republicans that it was important," she said, "but now there is negotiation and cooperation." And, if everything goes well, there might be some real changes this legislative session.

But they won't come soon enough to save the lives of Jones and his dog. ▼

United Press International contributed to this report.

FORTOBASE™ (saquinavir)

Table B. Percent of Patients With Marked Laboratory Abnormalities\*

Biochemistry/Hematology	Limit	NV15182 (48 weeks)	NV15355 (16 weeks) Naïve Patients	
		FORTOBASE + TDC <sup>1</sup> N=442	INVIRASE + 2 RTIs <sup>1</sup> N=81	FORTOBASE + 2 RTIs <sup>1</sup> N=80
Alk Phos	>5 x ULN <sup>2</sup>	0.5	0.0	0.0
Calcium (high)	>12.5 mg/dL	0.2	0.0	0.0
Creatine Kinase	>4 x ULN <sup>2</sup>	7.8	0.0	4.8
Gamma GT	>5 x ULN <sup>2</sup>	5.7	2.6	7.1
Glucose (low)	<40 mg/dL	6.4	2.5	3.5
Glucose (high)	>250 mg/dL	1.4	1.3	1.2
Phosphate	<1.5 mg/dL	0.5	0.0	0.0
Potassium (high)	>6.5 mEq/L	2.7	0.0	1.2
Serum Amylase	>2 x ULN <sup>2</sup>	1.9	Not Done	Not Done
SGOT (AST)	>5 x ULN <sup>2</sup>	4.1	0.0	1.2
SGPT (ALT)	>5 x ULN <sup>2</sup>	5.7	1.3	2.3
Sodium (high)	>157 mEq/L	0.7	0.0	0.0
Total Bilirubin	>2.5 x ULN <sup>2</sup>	1.6	0.0	0.0
Hemoglobin	<7.0 gm/dL	0.7	0.0	1.2
ANC	<750 mm <sup>3</sup>	2.9	2.9	1.2
Platelets	<50,000 mm <sup>3</sup>	0.9	2.5	0.0

\*ACTG Grade 3 or above. <sup>1</sup>Antiretroviral Treatment of Choice. <sup>2</sup>Reverse-Transcriptase Inhibitor. ULN = Upper limit of normal range.

Additional marked lab abnormalities have been observed with INVIRASE (saquinavir mesylate). These include: calcium (low), phosphate (low), potassium (low), sodium (low).

**Monotherapy and Combination Studies:** Other clinical adverse experiences of any intensity, at least remotely related to FORTOBASE and INVIRASE, including those in <2% of patients, are listed below by body system.

**Autonomic Nervous System:** Mouth dry, night sweats, sweating increased

**Body as a Whole:** Allergic reaction, anorexia, appetite decreased, appetite disturbances, asthenia, chest pain, edema, fever, intoxication, malaise, olfactory disorder, pain body, pain pelvic, retrosternal pain, shivering, trauma, wasting syndrome, weakness generalized, weight decrease

**Cardiovascular/Cerebrovascular:** Cyanosis, heart murmur, heart rate disorder, heart valve disorder, hypertension, hypotension, stroke, syncope, vein distended

**Central and Peripheral Nervous System:** Ataxia, cerebral hemorrhage, confusion, convulsions, dizziness, dysarthria, dysesthesia, hyperesthesia, hyperreflexia, hyporeflexia, light-headed feeling, myelopolyradiculoneuritis, neuropathy, numbness extremities, numbness face, paresis, paresthesia, peripheral neuropathy, poliomyelitis, prickly sensation, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, spasms, tremor, unconsciousness

**Dermatological:** Acne, alopecia, chalazion, dermatitis, dermatitis seborrheic, erythema, folliculitis, furunculosis, hair changes, hot flushes, nail disorder, papillomatosis, papular rash, photosensitivity reaction, pigment changes skin, parasites external, pruritus, psoriasis, rash maculopapular, rash pruritic, red face, skin disorder, skin nodule, skin syndrome, skin ulceration, urticaria, verruca, xeroderma

**Endocrine/Metabolic:** Dehydration, diabetes mellitus, hyperglycemia, hypoglycemia, hypothyroidism, thirst, triglyceride increase, weight increase

**Gastrointestinal:** Abdominal distention, bowel movements frequent, buccal mucosa ulceration, canker sores oral, cheilitis, colic abdominal, dysphagia, esophageal ulceration, esophagitis, eructation, fecal incontinence, feces bloodstained, feces discolored, gastralgia, gastritis, gastroesophageal reflux, gastrointestinal inflammation, gingivitis, glossitis, hemorrhage rectum, hemorrhoids, infectious diarrhea, melena, painful defecation, parotid disorder, pruritus ani, pyrosis, salivary glands disorder, stomach upset, stomatitis, taste unpleasant, toothache, tooth disorder, ulcer gastrointestinal

**Hematologic:** Anemia, neutropenia, pancytopenia, splenomegaly

**Liver and Biliary:** Cholangitis sclerosing, cholelithiasis, hepatitis, hepatomegaly, hepatosplenomegaly, jaundice, liver enzyme disorder, pancreatitis

**Musculoskeletal:** Arthralgia, arthritis, back pain, cramps leg, cramps muscle, lumbago, musculoskeletal disorders, myalgia, myopathy, pain facial, pain jaw, pain leg, pain musculoskeletal, stiffness, tissue changes

**Neoplasia:** Kaposi's sarcoma, tumor

**Platelet, Bleeding, Clotting:** Bleeding dermal, hemorrhage, microhemorrhages, thrombocytopenia

**Psychiatric:** Agitation, amnesia, anxiety attack, behavior disturbances, dreaming excessive, euphoria, hallucination, intellectual ability reduced, irritability, lethargy, overdose effect, psychic disorder, psychosis, somnolence, speech disorder

**Reproductive System:** Epididymitis, erectile impotence, impotence, menstrual disorder, menstrual irregularity, penis disorder, prostate enlarged, vaginal discharge

**Resistance Mechanism:** Abscess, angina tonsillaris, candidiasis, cellulitis, herpes simplex, herpes zoster, infection bacterial, infection mycotic, infection staphylococcal, infestation parasitic, influenza, lymphadenopathy, molluscum contagiosum, moniliasis

**Respiratory:** Asthma bronchial, bronchitis, cough, dyspnea, epistaxis, hemoptysis, laryngitis, pharyngitis, pneumonia, pulmonary disease, respiratory disorder, rhinitis, rhinitis allergic atopic, sinusitis, upper respiratory tract infection

**Special Senses:** Blepharitis, conjunctivitis, cytomegalovirus retinitis, dry eye syndrome, earache, ear pressure, eye irritation, hearing decreased, otitis, taste unpleasant, tinnitus, visual disturbance, xerophthalmia

**Urinary System:** Micturition disorder, nocturia, renal calculus, renal colic, urinary tract bleeding, urinary tract infection

**OVERDOSAGE:** Overdosage with FORTOBASE has not been reported. There were 2 patients who had overdoses with INVIRASE. No sequelae were noted in the first patient after ingesting 8 grams of INVIRASE as a single dose. The patient was treated with induction of emesis within 2 to 4 hours after ingestion. The second patient ingested 2.4 grams of INVIRASE in combination with 600 mg of zalcitabine and experienced pain in the throat that lasted for 6 hours and then resolved.

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:** The recommended dose of FORTOBASE is six 200-mg capsules orally, three times a day (1200 mg tid). FORTOBASE should be taken with a meal or up to 2 hours after a meal (see complete product information).

Active ingredient manufactured by:

F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., Basel, Switzerland

Distributed by:



Pharmaceuticals

Roche Laboratories Inc.  
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Issued: November 1997  
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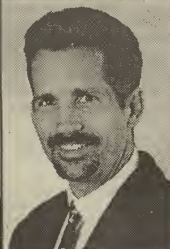
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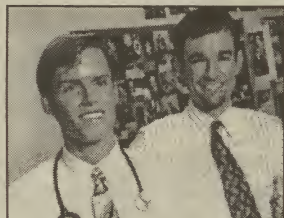
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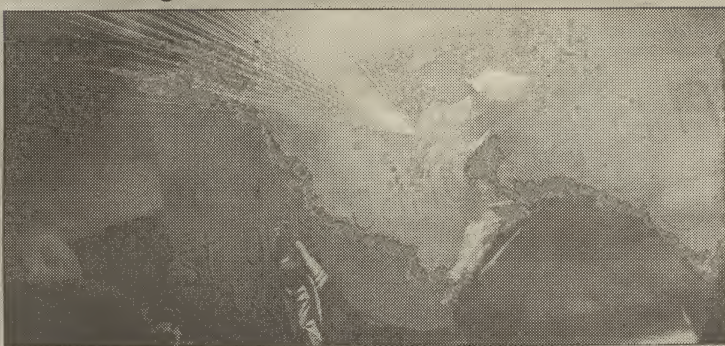
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## Dancing for a cure



Some of the action on-stage at the SF AIDS Dance-A-Thon was as wild as the action on the dance floor. Several thousand dancers grooved until 4 a.m. last Saturday at the Concourse Exhibition Center, raising money for 20 different AIDS service organizations.

## TG advocates meet with Vacaville warden

by Liz Highleyman

Warden Ana Ramirez Palmer of the California Medical Facility (CMF) at Vacaville met with members of the Ad Hoc Committee for Prison Health Care Reform (AHCPCR) Thursday, April 30 to discuss the conditions of transgender prisoners at the facility. This was the first time California Department of Corrections (CDC) representatives have met with transgender advocates.

According to transgender activist Patricia Kevena Fili, who attended the two-hour meeting, "We presented our concerns fully yesterday to Warden Ramirez

Palmer and key members of her staff, who listened carefully and promised to meet further with us to resolve these problems."

The meeting was arranged after supporters of transgendered prisoners sent a letter to Ramirez Palmer in January criticizing the discriminatory treatment and lack of medical care provided to transgendered inmates. The letter contended that Vacaville does not provide appropriate medical or mental health programs that address the unique needs of transgendered inmates, including access to hormone therapy.

The letter called for dedicated housing for transgender prisoners and sensitivity training for prison staff on transgender issues. An

AHCPCR member who is a San Francisco police officer has offered to conduct such trainings.

According to Ramirez Palmer, CDC regulations do not allow payment for hormone treatments. Members of the AHCPCR and Vacaville representatives discussed using outside medical consultants to provide hormones, which would have to be paid for by prisoners or outside advocates, unless CDC rules change. ▼

For more information about the Ad Hoc Committee for Prison Health Care Reform and to learn about future meetings and actions, call (707) 778-0564 or (510) 655-2931.

## Transgenders, intersexed protest GID, IGM

by Liz Highleyman

Members of the groups Transsexual Menace and Hermaphrodites With Attitude demonstrated outside the headquarters of the American Psychiatric Association in Washington, DC, Tuesday, April 21 to protest the organization's failure to condemn the psychiatric diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder (GID).

The diagnosis of GID is sometimes used as a basis for treating children who do not conform to accepted gender-based behavior and appearance. Some children have been consigned to psychiatric institutions for prolonged therapy in an attempt to stop gender-variant behavior and the feared development of a gay or lesbian sexual identity.

Some members of the transgender community want to see the GID diagnosis abolished, but others argue that it is useful for transgendered adults who are seeking medical approval and insurance coverage for hormone treatment and sex reassignment surgery.

Last week's protest was the fourth time transgender activists have picketed the APA over the GID issue, which the organization has yet to address.

On the same day, the two groups also picketed outside of George Washington University Hospital, which performs operations to alter the genitals of inter-

sexed infants and children. The surgery, which intersex activists refer to as intersex genital mutilation, is done in an attempt to make children's indeterminate genitals appear more typically male or female.

Cheryl Chase, founder of Hermaphrodites with Attitude and the Intersex Society of North America, estimated that surgery is performed on seven intersex infants every working day. American doctors are "telling parents they have to do it for the good of the infant," she said, "but mutilating my genitals wasn't for my

good; it was to make the doctors and my parents more comfortable with my body."

After the demonstration, several activists visited departments at the hospital that perform intersex genital surgery to discuss their concerns with medical personnel and "to speak for the infants who cannot speak for themselves."

Both actions took place in conjunction with National Gender Lobby Days, an annual period of legislation and activism sponsored by a coalition of transgender, intersex, bisexual, lesbian and gay organizations. ▼

## WeHo to create TG non-discrimination ordinance

by Liz Highleyman

The West Hollywood city council voted unanimously Tuesday, April 21 to create an ordinance that protects against discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

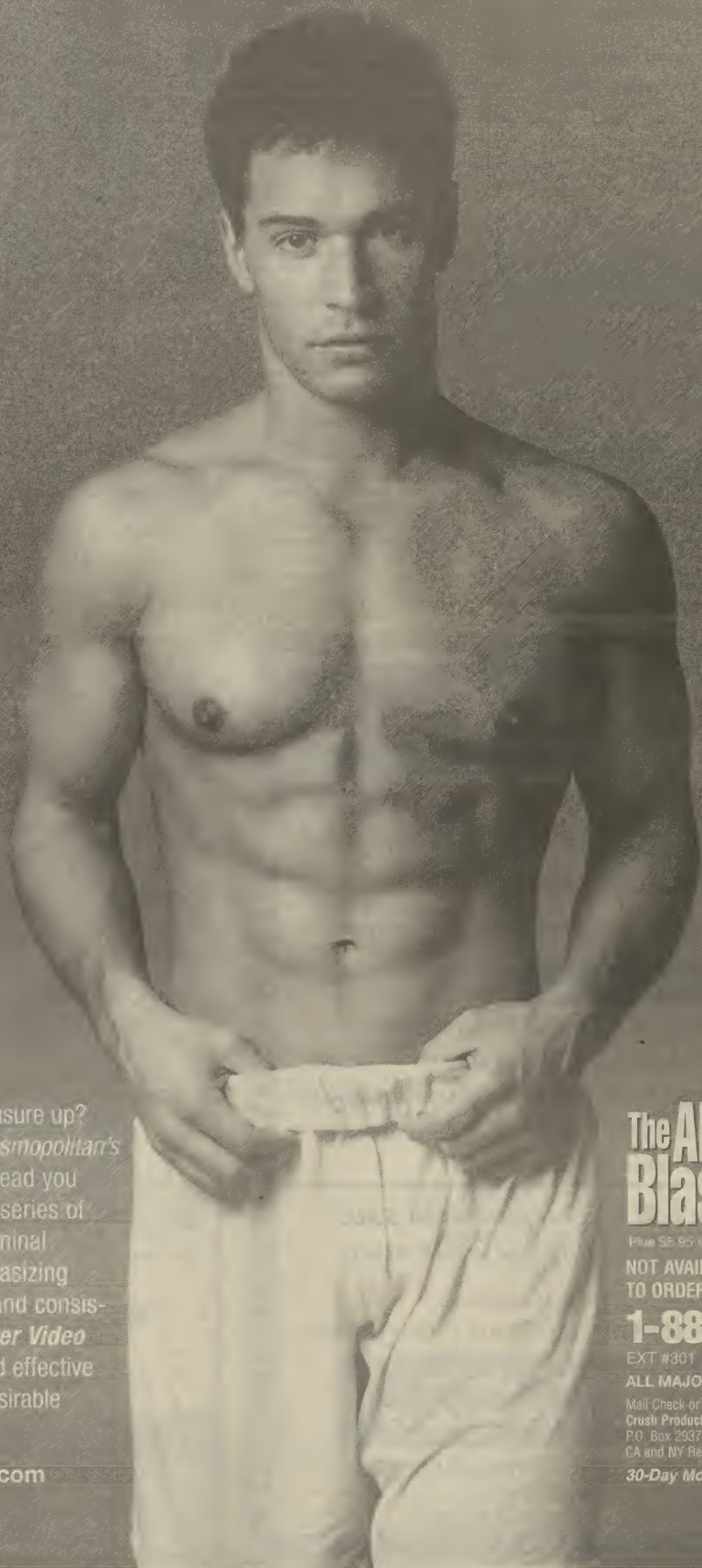
The amendment to the city's human rights law was proposed by Bryan Cook, an aide to city council member John Heilman. The council's vote directed the city attorney to draft wording that would change the existing ordinance to include gender-based discrimination.

Several members of the area's transgender community spoke in favor of the amendment, with some offering personal testimony about their own experiences of discrimination on the basis of non-conforming gender identity.

In addition, recently elected West Hollywood mayor Steve Martin directed the city manager to institute workshops and sensitivity training about transgender issues for city employees. ▼



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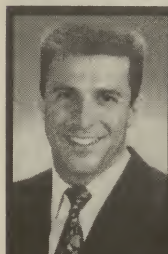
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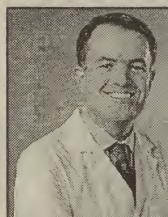


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BAY AREA REPORTER

# ABC hires interim director, elects officers

by Cynthia Laird

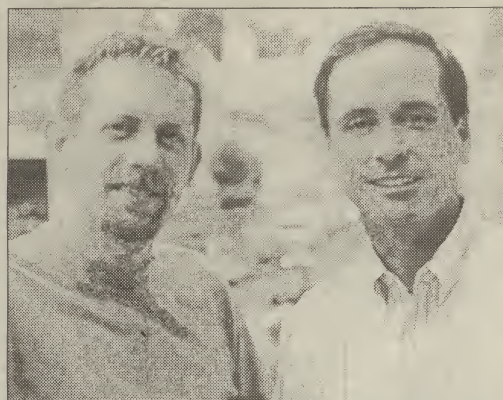
Bob Emerson, who had served as board president of AIDS Benefits Counselors (ABC), has been named interim executive director of the AIDS service organization, replacing Paul Causey, who abruptly resigned last month. The board decided upon Emerson's interim appointment at its April 23 meeting, where new officers were also elected.

Longtime AIDS activist Gary Virginia succeeds Emerson as board president. Other officers are Jeff Mello, vice president; Ed Streeter, secretary; and James Carlson, treasurer.

"The board is pleased that Bob agreed to step in during the transition period while we conduct a comprehensive search for a new executive director," said Virginia.

Emerson will make approximately \$59,000 per year; ABC's annual budget this year is \$874,500, Emerson told the B.A.R.

"It is an honor to be selected to lead ABC during this transition period," Emerson said. "There are many challenges facing the agency over the next several months, but with a community-based board of directors, a dedicated staff, and support from ABC's many volunteers, I am confident that the agency will continue to provide excellent services to people affect-



Completing, securing, increasing, and continuing: ABC Board President Gary Virginia (left) and Interim Executive Director Bob Emerson.

ed by HIV and AIDS."

Emerson had served on ABC's board for two years. Before being president, he sat on its finance, fundraising, and program committees and served as vice president. He moves into the interim executive director position with a background in project planning and management, and most recently worked on a large facility for MaxMedia, a Silicon Valley company.

Virginia and Emerson announced that ABC's primary goals for the year include completion of the agency's strategic planning effort that is now underway; securing adequate space to accommodate the recently integrated ABC Positive Resource Center; increasing community financial support; and continuing to meet the rapidly increasing demand for benefits counseling. The latter will continue to be implemented through the client-centered approach for which the agency is well known.

## Blessing during stressing

"I am excited about the future of ABC," Virginia told the B.A.R. "Our proactive merger with Positive Resources in 1996 was a great idea and now benefits counseling and employment services are being offered in an integrated program." A person living with AIDS and an ABC client since 1995, Virginia explained, "I joined the ABC board of directors in 1996 in an effort to give back to the people who were instrumen-

tal in my transition to disability. The professionalism and compassion they offered were a blessing during the most stressful period in my life."

Virginia, who previously worked in university fund development and sales management, is respected in the community as a leader, advocate, and fundraiser for many HIV-related causes. During his year as Mr. San Francisco Leather, he received numerous awards, including "Man of the Year" in 1996 and a mayoral proclamation for "Gary Virginia Day" in 1997.

Mello is a professor of management at Golden Gate University specializing in organizational development, human resource management, and employment law. He is the author of the book *AIDS and the Law of Workplace Discrimination*.

Streeter is a computer retail executive and an ABC client. His joining the board stemmed from a desire to continue efforts he started while living in Texas, where he conducted seminars and counseled people living with HIV on how to purchase life insurance and to successfully apply for Social Security disability benefits.

Carlson is a certified public accountant and has been a finance and operations executive for several insurance and investment firms in the city. ▼

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# TARC hires Paul Causey as director

by Cynthia Laird

**P**aul Causey, who suddenly resigned as executive director from AIDS Benefits Counselors last month has been hired to fill the top job at the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC). Board members of that agency announced Wednesday, April 29 that Causey will assume his duties later this month and will be responsible for the day to day operations of the organization providing services in the Tenderloin.

"As executive director, I hope to establish TARC as one of the city's model programs," Causey said, "by building upon its well-earned reputation for helping underserved and hard to reach populations."

Causey replaces Brian Cross, who left the agency in February. Board members Kevin Townner and Carol Kleinmaier said that TARC provides critical HIV/AIDS services to the diverse residents of the Tenderloin neighborhood. Since 1987, TARC has offered substance abuse counseling, case management, transgender coun-



Paul Causey: 'Make a difference'

seling, and community health outreach services. One aspect of the agency's services is provided in collaboration with Continuum HIV Day Services and the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center through federal Ryan White CARE Act funds.

TARC's current annual budget

is \$500,000; Causey's salary is \$48,000 per year, Townner said.

Causey described TARC as a "sleeping giant" that has quietly worked to make a "tremendous impact" on the lives of over 1,500 people each year.

"What first attracted me to TARC was its mission to meet the diverse needs of the disenfranchised community of the Tenderloin," Causey said. "The board of directors is dedicated to the agency and to the clients it serves, which fits fully with my own personal desire to 'make a difference' in this world."

Causey said he will continue serving as treasurer of the HIV Contractors Association and as community producer of TCI Cablevision of San Francisco's monthly television series, *AIDS Update*. He is also on the board of Deaf Communities Together. While at ABC, Causey oversaw the merger of that organization with Positive Resources, which offers employment services to people living with HIV/AIDS who are experiencing improved health and considering entering or re-entering the work force.

"Paul brings a tremendous amount of experience and leadership to TARC," said Townner. "TARC is at a pivotal point in its existence and with the integrity and enthusiasm that Paul brings to the agency, the board of directors believes the organization is poised to provide the services that our community desperately needs." ▼

For information about TARC's services, call (415) 431-7476.



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## Sapphistication

◀ page 10

for Nursing and the American Nurses' Association have promoted it, and the North American Nursing Diagnosis Association recognizes "energy field disturbance" as a health problem ... and you had me along on this until that last piece of business.

Emily's test involved her placing a hand a few inches above a practitioner's left or right hand, depending on a coin toss, with a towel blocking the practitioner's view. Speaking of coin tosses, the practitioners would have done better at determining the location of Emily's energy field, and therefore her hand, by flipping one: they were right only 44 percent of the time, worse than just guessing.

I won't say things like this never work, but they're in some ways just "part of this complete breakfast": an occasionally useful but unreliable add-on getting placed on the same footing as science. Stevie Wonder said it: superstition ain't the way. ▼

## Queer Science

◀ page 14

boy's ultimate sexual orientation. Nor do they see their immunological theory as meaning that there's something pathological about being gay. Nature uses whatever mechanisms she can find to foster human diversity, whether it be genes, hormones, antibodies or whatever else.

It's ironic that the birth-order effect, which seemed tailor-made for an environmental or psychosocial explanation of male sexual orientation, has been turned around and made into a bastion of the "born-that-way" point of view. For if it's not genes, it's still something that happens before birth. I like that! ▼

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nonas), and *Queer Science*. He may be reached at [SLeVay@aol.com](mailto:SLeVay@aol.com).

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# Needle exchange: A rough road ahead with a rocky past

by Matthew Sharp, ACT UP/  
Golden Gate Writers Pool

One month ago the moratorium on federal funding for needle exchange expired, and the AIDS community saw the first hope that a long fought battle might be won. Inside the White House, rumors circulated that Clinton was going to support future funding. But in a typical Clinton switch, the ban was not lifted even though the administration admitted "the scientific evidence does show needle exchange programs reduce the risk of HIV infection and do not encourage the use of illegal drugs."

Donna Shalala, Bill Clinton's Secretary of Health and Human Services added, "This is another life saving intervention." The secretary visited UC Berkeley to give a keynote speech at the inauguration of a new UC Chancellor, but in light of the decision couldn't have picked a worse time to come to the Bay Area. She was a perfect target for the mobilization of a di-

verse coalition of Bay Area AIDS activists including ACT UP/Golden Gate and ACT UP/East Bay members, who couldn't let the opportunity go to express their outrage.

After the initial shock and disbelief of the decision spread through the AIDS community, the cowardly Clinton administration, a right-wing drug policy chief, and a politically charged Congress remained headstrong in their opposition to the NE programs. Clinton retorted in a White House news conference that there had been "more heat than light on" the matter. He continued to digress when he stated needle

exchange research raises the "logical question" posed by Barry McCaffrey, Clinton's Drug Policy Chief, that "the benefits of needle exchange are uncertain and that the message you send out is that somehow the government is empowering drug use. There are people all over the country that agree with that."

Given the ominous situation, and the conclusive evidence from six studies, there would appear to be a majority of people all over the country that now support needle exchange. Clinton failed to mention the researchers, policy advisors, prevention experts, needle exchangers, people with AIDS, people of color, and his own surgeon general, David Satcher. Sandy Thurman, the current top AIDS advisor to the president, recommended funding. In March of this year the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS implored that the administration lift the ban. Also, a recent *USA Today* found 64 percent of respondents in favor of federal funding for needle exchange. The Congressional Black Caucus and National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) have called for Barry McCaffrey's resignation. Also, ACT UP chapters in New York, Philadelphia, East Bay, and Golden Gate have called for Shalala to step down in protest to Clinton's decision.

The hypocrisy is typical in the Clinton administration that has failed to deliver on gays in the military, healthcare reform, and countless other broken promises. His apology to the African-American community on the Tuskegee experiments is particularly hypocritical given the disproportionate number of blacks exposed to HIV through IV drug use, who could benefit from needle exchange.

"He has consistently taken spineless positions on AIDS in order to escape the ire of the republicans in Congress," stated John Iverson of ACT UP East Bay. "He fired Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders for mentioning the word 'masturbation'. He appointed and then appeased Barry McCaffrey's opposition to needle exchange, even though in a campaign promise in 1992 he promised to fund it. So now we have a president, mired in his own controversies, catering to a bigoted right-wing Congress, backing

out of the most immoral life-and-death decision he has ever had to make."

ACT UP chapters and needle exchange advocates have vowed to follow and disrupt Clinton, Shalala, and McCaffrey wherever they are making public appearances, letting them know through demonstrations and civil disobedience how outrageous and hypocritical the decision is. Congress members should be contacted for the immoral moves they are taking to prohibit any future funding whatsoever for needle exchange.

### The history

In 1988 a few needle exchange programs were born in Tacoma, New York, and San Francisco by former users, anarchists, and pagans who were concerned about the spread of AIDS. Underground organizations formed to distribute clean needles, bleach, condoms, and as much safe sex information that was possible.

The activists risked arrest, and some were arrested, but San Francisco's Prevention Point continued to grow and by 1989 had distributed over 100,000 syringes. San Francisco allowed needle exchange and with few exceptions the City came to support and later fund programs despite the state and federal laws.

ACT UP has a rich history of support for needle exchange in the United States and has passionately fought for programs. ACT UPs in Cleveland, Columbus, and Oakland (ACT UP/East Bay) actually distributed needles and provided seed money to start local programs. Since ACT UP members had little fear of risking arrest, they took the initiative to provide clean syringes to save lives. Today, Alameda County Needle Exchange exchanges 750,000 syringes a year with no local government support.

Before ACT UP/San Francisco split into two groups, members raised needed funds for Prevention Point. However, as exchanges continued, ACT UP members wanted to engage in a more vocal outcry to decriminalize needle exchange and gather support. Prevention Point members wanted to remain quiet and distribute needles. The two factions were synergistic in their ideology, but there was tension over tactics. Eventually ACT UP/San Francisco disbanded but Prevention Point continued. It is now administrated and funded by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and volunteers handle exchanges. Federal funds would benefit this largest operation in the country, which exchanges over one million syringes a year.

ACT UP/New York began a needle exchange committee that distributed needles and condoms in 1990. The committee continued to exchange needles but was in a less supportive and more confrontational environment than San Francisco. Six people were arrested, and "not in my backyard" community groups stopped successful pilot projects.

ACT UPs have been the voice behind action on needle exchange.

page 28 ►

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# AIDSWatch '98 includes White House needle exchange demo

by Bob Roehr

We are here because this administration and this president have turned their backs on the lives of men, women, and children at risk for this disease through dirty needles. That is immoral and we will not tolerate it," shouted Christine Lubinski, deputy director of the AIDS Action Council. She was among the hundred or so people decked out in white lab coats, demonstrating outside the White House on Tuesday, May 5.

She turned toward the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue and said, "We also have a Congress that wants to add insult to injury and run for reelection on the backs of people living with HIV and AIDS." "Shame, shame, shame," the crowd roared back.

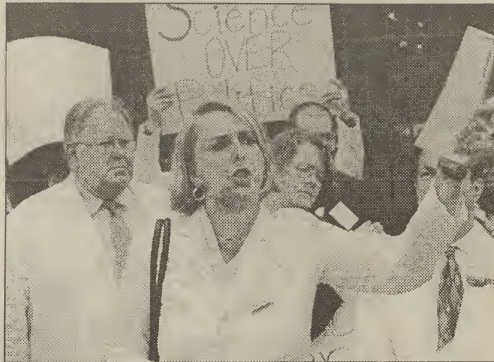
Lubinski thrust aloft and shook a letter to William Jefferson Clinton that tells him we are outraged and disappointed by his lack of leadership." It demanded three things: Immediate federal funding of needle exchange, full funding of substance abuse programs, and a veto of any attempt by Congress to codify a ban on needle exchange.

"I think the administration expected us to go away," said Belinda Dunn, a black woman living with AIDS. "I want them to know that we are not going away." HIV disproportionately affects minority communities. She was infected through sexual contact with a man who shared a dirty needle. "If there was a [clean] needle I probably would not be standing here today," she said.

Dr. David Vlahov, a researcher at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, pleaded, "The data from the United States is clear, HIV does go down from needle exchange. People do get into drug treatment and stop drug use. Drug use does go down."

"Look at the data. It is there. We are here today to say that we have got to have science over politics."

Every day, 33 Americans are needlessly infected with HIV because of the Clinton administration's policy on needle exchange.



Christine Lubinski, deputy director of the AIDS Action Council.

The president's budget slighted prevention activities. It proposed more money for drug interdiction and policing, but no increases for substance abuse treatment.

The group returned to picketing the White House chanting, "Science over politics, needle exchange now" and "Science in, McCaffrey out. NOW."

The demonstration was part of AIDSWatch '98, what has become an annual spring gathering of AIDS advocates to lobby Congress. Participants were briefed over the weekend and made congressional visits on Monday and Tuesday.

Regina Aragon, public policy director for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, noted that combination therapies keep PWAs healthier and living longer. That good news has led many to believe that the AIDS crisis is over. But the paradox is that it has only increased the demand for drugs and services for people living with HIV. She called for full funding of the Ryan White Care Act, something that has never happened before.

Last March, Sandy Thurman, the President's advisor on AIDS policy, expressed hope that the Republican Congress would increase the AIDS budget even more than her President proposed. The House of Representatives is expected to act on health-care appropriations within 30 days. ▼

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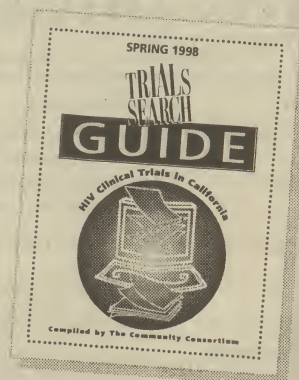


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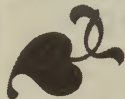


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## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

**(Allen) Todd Fort**  
March 16, 1958 — April 2, 1998



Todd Fort, a resident of the East Bay, died April 2. He was 40.

Todd was born in Castro Valley, Calif., and was a Pleasanton resident for many years. Although he resided in the East Bay

most of the time, he had a special place in his heart for San Francisco.

Todd knew how to make the most of life. He was a vibrant, creative and high-

ly energetic soul, a practical joker who had a great sense of humor. He made a lasting impression on everyone he met. To know him was to love him.

Todd enjoyed gardening, vacationing with his friends, and visiting Yosemite's majestic beauty. He is survived by his partner, Dan Briggs; his mother, Dorothy M. Fort of Green Valley, Ariz.; a sister, Wenonah Fort of Stockton, Calif.; aunts; cousins; nephews and a niece; and many loving friends who will miss him dearly. Todd was preceded in death by his father, Dale E. Fort. We love you, Todd!

A celebration of Todd's life will be held on Saturday, June 6, 1-5 p.m., at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road, in Pleasanton. Memorial contributions can be made to Project Open Hand, P.O. Box 642910, San Francisco, CA 94164-2910.

**Claude C. Gibney**  
Nov. 17, 1950 — April 6, 1998



Claude Charles Gibney died on April 6 from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He was very healthy until the last three months of his life. He was 47.

Claude came to San Francisco in

June 1979 and found this city a very exciting place to be. He lived that excitement every day.

Claude was the principal at St. Vincent De Paul Elementary School on Green Street, a job he adored. Prior to St. Vincent's, he was vice principal and teacher at Immaculate Conception Ele-

## AIDS Czar

◀ page 1

one to work in the African-American and youth communities, and Bill seemed to be a natural."

Pabich said "at least \$6 million in ideas" came out of the summit, running the gamut from housing to workplace reentry, and from prevention to drug adherence. He said he and Barnes will be working with other city officials, particularly in the DPH, to follow up on the numerous recommendations, and told the Bay Area Reporter he wonders how all of the work got done before the mayor created the policy office.

He likened his new post to "stepping into a large vacuum." Barnes said of the office, "It's great there's a coordinated place."

Coordination seems to be one thing Pabich and Barnes are working to achieve. "We're a policy office. We're not trying to replace anything," said Pabich, who added that having the power of Brown behind him is also a plus. "When we call and say we're from the mayor's office, we capture people's attention."

These days, those people are likely to be working for AIDS service organizations or prevention agencies. Pabich said he was most surprised by the apparent lack of discussion among service providers. "There is a lack of communication between people who work together, a real lack of coordination. We're trying to coordinate."

Added Barnes, who also serves

on the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council "I don't think people aren't communicating because they don't want to; I think it's because they're so busy. Most people work really hard."

## African-American initiative in the works

Among the projects that the HIV/AIDS policy office is working on is a major initiative for the African-American community, according to Pabich and Barnes. "We have the mayor's very strong personal commitment; it's far beyond the need to be political," said Pabich, adding that out of the AIDS Summit has come a scientific advisory committee that has been meeting with Brown. "He finds this to be extremely fascinating and during a debate about science, he stayed and listened for one and a half hours. He's a very quick learner and that translates to better action and more money."

Barnes has begun to get involved in the African-American initiative that will initially consist of meeting with a wide variety of people in the religious and business community, as well as HIV/AIDS agencies. Barnes related an example that points to a need for more outreach in the community. "I met a young man who never realized how HIV/AIDS is affecting his community, that African-Americans make up 9 percent of the city's population and 18 percent of the diagnoses. Here's someone who's well educated, yet not hearing a lot about that," he said.

mentary for 11 years. He first taught at St. Mary's Cathedral, which eventually was torn down.

He leaves a good friend — his mother, Peg — and four brothers in Belleville, N.Y., where he often visited. He also leaves a longtime companion, Joe Porcuro, and many, many friends.

Claude will be missed mainly for the inspiration he gave all of his students and friends. He always expected the best from everyone, and he always got it.

A spectacular Mass and viewing was held at St. Vincent De Paul. A memorial will be held on May 24 at his 5 Wright Street home at 2 p.m.

**(Carlos) Estevan Lemus**  
June 7, 1970 — April 26, 1998



Estevan was born in Monterey, Calif., and died in Fresno, Calif., April 26. He was 27.

Estevan is survived by his loving parents, Frank and Jane Lemus of Woodlake; two brothers, Frank

Lemus Jr. of Fresno and Vincent Lemus of Washington state; four sisters, Maria, Elena Lopez (Whittier, Calif.), Elizabeth Anderson, Cynthia Lemus and Patricia Lemus (all of Chino, Calif.). He is also survived by his many friends in San Francisco.

Estevan worked as a culinary chef at the Ritz-Carlton in San Francisco. A memorial service was held May 1 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Fresno. Two San Francisco memorial services are pending. For more information, please call 209-229-3339.

The goal of the African-American initiative in its planning phase is "to bring together people working in the field and those who could be," according to Pabich.

Funding for the workplace issues is expected to be in the mayor's new budget, due out in a couple of weeks. Most likely, Pabich said, that initiative will involve minimal city staff and will be put out to contract through a request for proposal (RFP) process. The pro bono ad campaign the mayor highlighted at the summit is being developed and will probably be rolled out this fall, and a community advisory board is expected to be convened.

At the AIDS Summit, Brown promised a final report that would include the comments from those who attended. Pabich said that is almost finished being compiled and will be mailed out to everyone who attended the summit. "It will probably include a progress report," he added.

Barnes, a native of Queens, New York, said it's important that HIV/AIDS prevention messages remain at the forefront, in spite of the changes in treatment options and other medical advances. "Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender folks show up in San Francisco every day, we need to make sure the message stays," he said. ▼

**People can call Pabich or Barnes at (415) 554-5967 about HIV/AIDS policy issues.**

## ACT UP

◀ page 26

Levels of participation have varied as they have on other critical AIDS issues. Some chapters participated in exchanges, raised funds, and led arrest actions to gain more attention. But most importantly, ACT UP has been the loudest and most persistent voice to get as much national support as it has today. In September, 1998 a national ACT UP demonstration was staged in Washington DC, where 12 people were arrested.

ACT UP/Golden Gate has been vocal since 1992, when a few

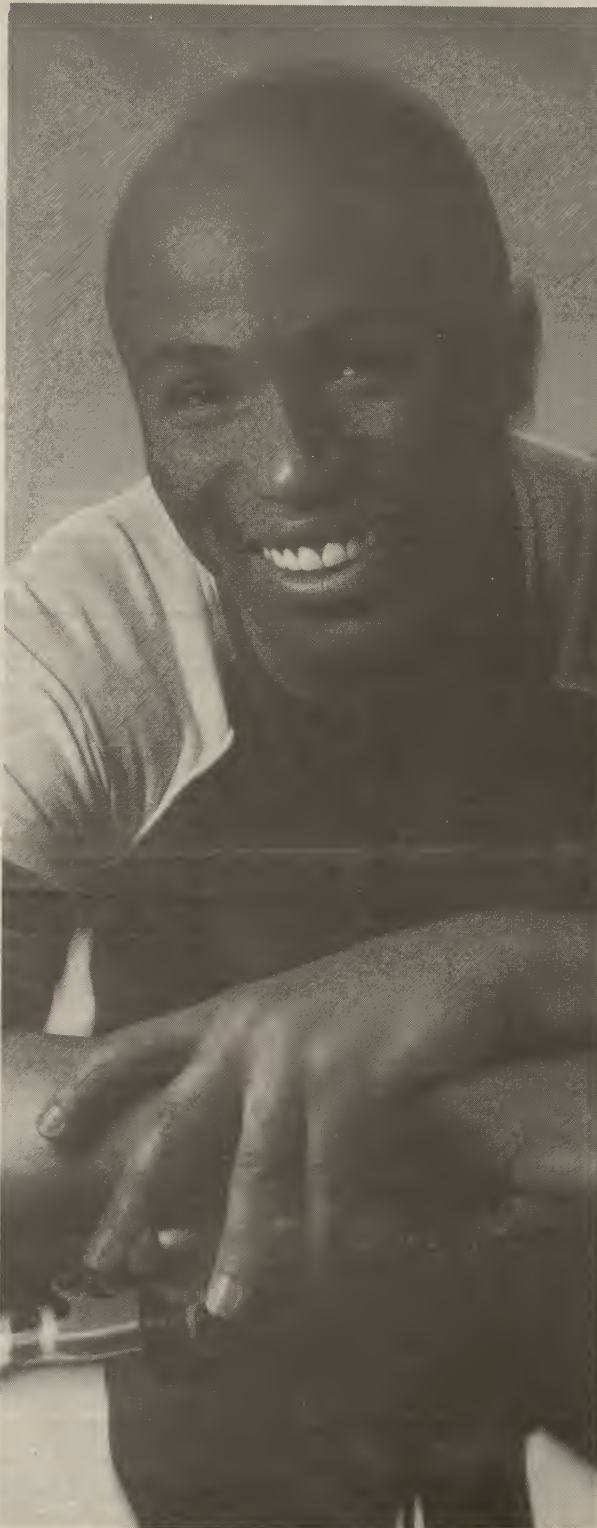
members were arrested at a Clinton re-nomination rally in Oakland. Other ACT UP/Golden Gate Writers Pool articles have focused on the issue helping to educate the community. Needle exchange researcher Peter Lurie, formally from UCSF, was awarded activist of the year by ACT UP/Golden Gate in 1996. Other local actions have been ACT UP/East Bay's World AIDS Day event in Oakland, and the recent UC Berkeley demonstration where two members were arrested.

It has been an incredibly long battle and the war is not over. We've been through a lot to prove that needle exchange is one of the

best HIV prevention methods we've got. It does not promote further drug use. It prevents other life threatening diseases such as Hepatitis B and C. It reduces costs of increased HIV care. It fosters rehabilitation and recovery. After the compelling research there are few people who now oppose it. We've worked hard to educate and garner growing support. Money has been raised. Lives have been saved.

But thousands more lives could be saved if needed federal funding was available. More programs could start; more needles could be exchanged. But now all we have is a president with blood on his hands. ▼





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ZERIT is approved for the treatment of HIV-infected persons who have already received prolonged AZT therapy. However, there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking ZERIT may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Please note that all HIV drugs cause side effects. ZERIT has been shown to cause tingling or pain in the hands or feet in 13% to 24% of people.

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# Gr service

by Jim Provenzano

O rlando, Florida is the home of Gay Day at Disney World. But at the Disney Wide World of Sports' USA National Freestyle/Greco 1998 Championships last month, it was also lesbian and gay wrestling day.

Tekla Balukas of Golden Gate Wrestling Club placed fifth in a field of eight wrestlers in the Women's Open Freestyle, 163-pound weight class. Rochelle Robinson won her only match 12-2 for the Women's 163-pound Open Freestyle title. Only five states currently offer this super heavyweight division for women, so it was deemed an exhibition this year.

This is the first time Golden Gate Wrestlers have wrestled and placed in the national tournament, and is a milestone for both the women and GGWC — but not surprising, given the club's growth, persistence, and increasing presence on the mat. This summer, the club's members

stand to dominate Gay Games in their usual fashion.

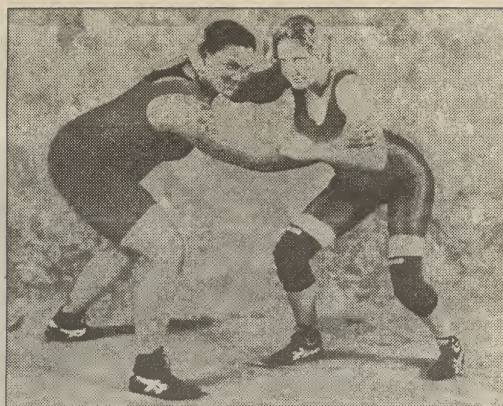
Among the annual events for the team are the upcoming Memorial Day Clinic/Tournament, this year on May 22-25. This year's clinic will be in final preparation for the club's trip to Amsterdam to compete in Gay Games V. The week-end-long event will include a freestyle rules and safety clinic, guest coaches, plenty of open mat time for wrestlers to practice their moves on new faces (or flattening new faces, but in a nice way), team parties (which usually includes fabulous renditions of show tunes and Costco's best appetizers, plus buckets of pasta), and an all-around great time. This event usually attracts about 40 wrestlers nationwide.

Other recent tournaments where GGWC members competed were the Fremont Open and the BAWA-sponsored freestyle

match at Oakland's Technical High School. In some highly competitive weight classes, against much younger and experienced state ranked reputable wrestlers, the Golden Bears made the most credible showing in 16 years at a single BAWA (Bay Area Wrestling Association) tournament, and this is only the second tournament of the season. Many of the Golden Bears qualified for the Masters/Veterans division, but still competed in the younger Open category.

Entering ten wrestlers in four of the weight categories of the men's and women's open divisions at the Fremont

Open, the Bears garnered three 3rd place Bronze Medals. The most encouraging factor was the individual performances turned in by novices Johnny Almony (Mens Open Bronze 138#), David Akawie (Mens Open 4th 138#), Robert LeBeau (Mens Open Bronze 168#), who were each able



Rochelle Robinson (left) and Tekla Balukas grappled with success.

to score high point throws on the eventual winners of their divisions. Last month, another Golden Bear, novice Rafael Cruz-Rivera, earned a 2nd place Silver Medal last weekend at the North Coast Open in Middletown (Mens Open Silver 138#).

Veteran New York wrestler and Golden Bear coach Bryan Northam also toughed out four grueling matches to win the Men's

Open Bronze 152#. His one impressive win against a very cocky college kid (who was half his age, and stalling!) elicited some very funny (but good natured) ageist banter from his surprised teammates.

Other competing Golden Bears were Rochelle Robinson (Womens Open 213#), Russ Smith (Mens Open 152#), Dean Takehara (Mens Open 138#), and Pete DuBois (Mens Open 168#). The Golden Bears intend to enter some 20 wrestlers in Amsterdam. Although plans are already formalized for Gay Games, newcomers are always welcome to provide them with fresh meat, er, people to meet.

Several team members posed for their new fundraising calendar, which is available at many shops in the Bay Area. My favorite is the queer-owned Pulp, on Market above Church (yes, this is a plug) where you can get cool toys, office supplies, and even some masked pro wrestler gift wrapping paper, perfect for the grappler on your list.

Between posing for calendars, members of the club have been competing in Gay Games for the past 12 years. Golden Gate Wrestling Club has proudly participated in each of the past Gay Games international freestyle tournaments.

Registration is still open in this Individual Sport, and women are particularly encouraged. All that is required to participate is a current USA Wrestling card.

Wrestling competition is scheduled for Sunday August 1 at the University of Amsterdam, and may continue through Monday. According to Gay Games registration figures, less than 80 people are planning to compete, with barely over a dozen not from the US. Hopefully more will register later, particularly some of those cute Turkish guys.

Wrestling is one of the more popular sports at Gay Games, but it will not need a paid ticket for viewing at Gay Games. I don't know why. I'd pay to see me roll around on the mat with a bunch of other sweaty athletes in tight singlets! Yes, fans, that's what they're called. Singlets. If you wanna flirt with a wrestler, don't call them "togs" or "tights." Singlets. ▼

The Golden Gate Wrestlers hold freestyle practices 2 to 3 times a week at the Eureka Valley Rec. Center, Collingwood at 18th St. in the Castro: Tuesday and Friday 7 p.m., and Sunday 2 p.m. All ages and skill levels are encouraged. For further information about practices and the upcoming Memorial Day events, call Gene at (415) 821-2991, or Dave at (415) 673-0894 visit their website at: <http://www.metaldesign.com/gwc/>, or email: [wrestler@pacbell.net](mailto:wrestler@pacbell.net).

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#### ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules

#### ZERIT® (stavudine) for Oral Solution

Brief Summary of Prescribing Information, 1096. For complete prescribing information, please consult official package circular.

#### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT (stavudine) is indicated for the treatment of HIV-infected patients who have received prolonged prior zidovudine therapy. The duration of clinical benefit from antiretroviral therapy may be limited. Alterations in antiretroviral therapy should be considered if disease progression occurs while receiving ZERIT.

#### CLINICAL STUDIES

Study A455-019 was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind trial of ZERIT Capsules vs zidovudine for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with CD4 counts of 50 to 500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> who had received at least six months prior zidovudine treatment. ZERIT was administered in dosages of 40 mg BID for patients weighing ≥60 kg, and 30 mg BID for those weighing <60 kg. The zidovudine dosage was 200 mg TID. The study enrolled 822 patients with a median baseline CD4 count of 235 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (range: 10 to 735 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>), and a median duration of prior zidovudine treatment of 85 weeks (range: 1 to 356 weeks). Fourteen percent of subjects had AIDS at baseline, 50% had HIV-related symptoms and 36% were asymptomatic. Table 1 gives the Kaplan-Meier estimates for the time to disease progression.

	ZERIT	First AIDS - Defining Event or Death*	zidovudine
6 months	4.4%	5.7%	
12 months	10.4%	14.1%	
18 months	18.5%	23.3%	
24 months	26.6%	31.8%	

\*Kaplan-Meier estimates; the overall difference between stavudine and zidovudine was not significant.

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

#### WARNINGS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. This complication occurred in 19 and 24 percent of the 11,784 patients with advanced HIV disease who received the two dose levels of stavudine in the Parallel Track Program\*. In patients with less advanced HIV infection in the zidovudine comparative trial, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 13 percent of ZERIT-treated patients as compared to 4 percent of zidovudine-treated patients. Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy that is usually characterized by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen transiently following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

Patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy are at increased risk for the development of neuropathy. If stavudine must be administered in this clinical setting, careful monitoring is essential.

#### PRECAUTIONS

**Information for Patients**  
Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT. Patients should be informed that the most common toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Symptoms of peripheral neuropathy usually include tingling, burning, pain, or numbness in the hands or feet. Patients should be counseled that this toxicity occurs with greater frequency in patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy. They should be advised that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians and that dose changes may be necessary. They should also be cautioned about the use of other medications that may exacerbate peripheral neuropathy.

Caregivers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be informed that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

#### Laboratory Tests

Asks to moderate increases in AST (SGOT) and ALT (SGPT) occurred commonly in clinical trials; these did not interfere with continued therapy.

**Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility**  
Long-term carcinogenicity studies of stavudine in animals have not been completed. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, *E. coli* reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenicity and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/ml, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblasts (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/ml, with and without metabolic activation).

\*The parallel track program (STUDY A1455-000) treated 12,551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <300/mm<sup>3</sup> who had failed, were intolerant of, or had contraindications to other therapies.

In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C<sub>50</sub>) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

#### Pregnancy

**Pregnancy "Category C."** Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C<sub>50</sub>) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternebra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

#### Nursing Mothers

Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This is consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV.

#### Pediatric Use

Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional safety data in 115 pediatric patients and pharmacokinetic data in 25 of these patients.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients (age range: 5 weeks to 15 years, weight range: 2 to 43 kg) after IV and oral administration of 0.125, 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg as single doses and as BID regimens. The mean ± SD absolute bioavailability was 76.9 ± 31.7% (n=20). Peak plasma concentration (C<sub>max</sub>) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) increased in proportion to dose after both single and multiple doses.

Following intravenous infusions (n=21), the mean ± SD volume of distribution was 18.5 ± 9.1 L/m<sup>2</sup>. The distribution of stavudine into cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was assessed in 8 pediatric patients after 12 weeks of multiple oral dosing. The concentration of stavudine in CSF samples ranged from 0.06 to 0.105 µg/ml, at times ranging from 2 to 3 hours post-dose (dose ranging from 0.125 to 1 mg/kg). CSF concentrations ranged from 16% to 125% (mean ± SD of 59% ± 35%) of the concentration in simultaneous plasma samples.

The terminal elimination half-life after oral or intravenous administration of stavudine was approximately one hour. The mean ± SD total body clearance after intravenous infusion was 247 ± 94 mL/min/m<sup>2</sup>. The mean ± SD apparent oral clearance was 333 ± 87 mL/min/m<sup>2</sup>. The percent of the dose excreted unchanged in the urine was 34.5% after oral administration.

The clearance of stavudine is related to both body surface area and body weight. When dosing according to body weight, the recommended dosage for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 2 mg/kg/day in divided doses. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dose.

#### ADVERSE REACTIONS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT (stavudine) is peripheral neuropathy (see "WARNINGS" section). Adults: Peripheral neuropathy is dose related (see Table 2). Modest elevation of hepatic transaminases was also observed commonly in controlled trials.

#### Table 2 Peripheral Neuropathy Leading to Dose Modification

	Study A455-019 ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	Parallel Track Program ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=5905)	ZERIT (200 mg TID) (n=5879)
Peripheral Neuropathy			
Grade 1-2	11	3	17
Grade 3-4	2	4	2
Total	13	7	19

Selected adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A455-019) are provided in Table 3.

#### Table 3 Selected Clinical Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Controlled Clinical Trials

Adverse Events	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	Study A455-019 zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Headache	54	49
Chills/Fever	50	51
Diarrhea	50	43
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	38	44
Abdominal Pain	34	27
Myalgia	32	35
Insomnia	29	31
Anorexia	22	22
Allergic Reaction	9	8
Pancreatitis	1	1

\*This event was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

Includes all clinical complaints.

\*Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Laboratory abnormalities reported in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A455-019) are shown in Table 4.

#### Table 4 Controlled Clinical Trials: Incidence of Adult Laboratory Abnormalities\*

Lab Tests (units)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
AST (SGOT) (≤5.0 x ULN)	11	10
ALT (SGPT) (≤5.0 x ULN)	13	11
Bilirubin (≤5.0 x ULN)	2	2
Anemia (≤8.0 g/dL)	•	3
Neutropenia (neutrophils <750/mm <sup>3</sup> )	5	9
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm <sup>3</sup> )	3	3
Amylase (≥1.4 x ULN)	14	13

\*This abnormality was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

\*Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.

\*Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

\*ULN = upper limit of normal.

**Pediatric Patients:** Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

#### OVERDOSE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdose include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. It is not known whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

#### HOW SUPPLIED

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

#### Table 5

Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 15	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 20	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark red	BMS 30	60	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 40	60	0003-1967-01

ZERIT for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label. ZERIT for Oral Solution is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water (NDC No. 0003-1968-01).

US Patent No. 4,978,655

Storage: ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

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F9-8001A-10-96

Adapted from: P4577-94  
Revised October 1996



## NATIONAL NEWS

# Study shows gay teens' increased health risk

PRNewswire

**M**ore than one-third of all gay, lesbian, or bisexual teenagers reported in an anonymous in-school survey that they had attempted suicide within the previous 12 months, according to a report in the May 5 issue of *Pediatrics*.

Among heterosexual teenagers, 9.9 percent said they had attempted suicide.

The responses came in a voluntary and anonymous Youth Risk Behavior Survey prepared by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with an added question on sexual orientation, according to Robert H. Durrant, Ph.D., professor of pediatrics at the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center and senior author of the *Pediatrics* paper.

The study is one of the first to examine the association between sexual orientation and health risk behaviors among a representative, school-based sample of adolescents.

Youth who identify themselves as gay, lesbian, or bisexual during high school are more likely to report engaging in multiple risky

behaviors and to start them at an earlier age than other teens. In fact, the study showed that about 50 percent of these teens reported engaging in more than five risky behaviors, compared to fewer than 25 percent of their straight counterparts.

But these teens also feel threatened. More than one-fourth of the gay, lesbian, or bisexual teenagers in the survey reported missing school because of fear in the previous 30 days, strikingly different from just 5.1 percent among straight teens. Among the gay teens, 32.7 percent said they had been threatened with a weapon in the previous 30 days, compared to 7.1 percent among heterosexual teens.

More than half of the gay teens reported property damage at school during the past 12 months, and more than 68 percent reported they had been involved in a fight during the previous year. For 14 percent, the results of the fighting were serious enough to require medical treatment.

The survey also found that one-third of the gay, lesbian, or bisexual teens reported sexual contact against their will, compared with 9 percent of the

straight teens.

The contrast between gay and straight teens in risky behaviors that were volunteered on the anonymous questionnaire produced other surprises. For instance, use of smokeless tobacco in the previous 30 days was four times as common among gay teens than heterosexual ones. Anabolic steroids were used six times more often by the gay teens.

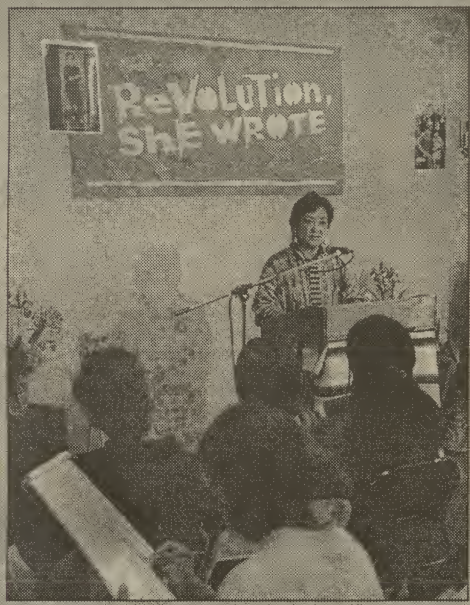
Fifty-nine percent of gay teens smoked cigarettes, compared to 35 percent of straight teens.

The study found that gay teens engaged in a range of risky behaviors, even while they were very young. For instance, 59 percent reported alcohol use before age 13, 48 percent smoked cigarettes before age 13, 37 percent had tried marijuana, 17 percent had tried cocaine, and 27 percent engaged in sexual intercourse. All are strikingly more common than among heterosexual teens.

The researchers asked questions about lifetime exposure to risky behaviors as well as in the preceding 30 days. In almost any variance — use of alcohol, binge drinking, sharing needles, and having three or more sexual partners within the past 12 months — the percentages were far higher among the gay teens.

"Gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents face tremendous challenges growing up physically and mentally healthy in a culture that

## Revolution she read



**P**oet Nellie Wong read selections from *Revolution, She Wrote*, a new book by civil rights activist Clara Fraser, who recently died in Seattle. The evening at the Modern Times Bookstore was a celebration of her life and of all workers on this international workers' holiday. It was sponsored by Radical Women, which Fraser co-founded in 1967.

is often unaccepting," the researcher said.

In the survey of 4,159 teens in 59 high schools, 0.6 percent identified themselves as gay or lesbians, 1.9 percent identified them-

selves as bisexual, a total of 2.5 percent. Another 1.5 percent responded "not sure," and 3.7 percent responded "none of the above." And 9.3 percent skipped the sexual orientation question. ▼

## Jim Gabbert

◀ page 13

Gabbert asked him if "it was blackmail" he was shocked, thought the assertion "was crazy," and fled the office.

Under cross examination, Mele could not recall ever telling Schwacter during a sworn deposition that he was not sure how accurate his recollection of the hot tub incident was, or that he could not recall being offended by the utility belt incident.

Schwacter also introduced excerpts from Mele's journals as evidence, including a statement that he "would let Gabbert play," which Mele explained as a statement that Gabbert was pursuing him but that he could "handle it," even though his journal entry noted that he was searching for someone in his life.

Schwacter also charged that the events alleged by Mele could not be corroborated and based on Mele's admissions about several journal entries, asked Mele whether the allegations were also embellishments or fantasies.

Mele denied that he ever talked about his sex life with Gabbert or said he "wouldn't mind" going out with KOFY general manager partner Mike Lincoln and living in Marin or Guerneville. He also said he "didn't believe" he ever told sexual jokes to his employer, and denied he ever sat in a sexually suggestive or casual position with his leg over the chair during his employment at KOFY-TV.

After resigning from KOFY in 1994 for a position at KRON-TV, and after receiving a Christmas card from Lincoln, Mele wrote a letter to Lincoln asking for his job back.

"I realize it was a terrible mistake to leave KOFY and I'd like to correct it," Mele wrote.

Mele testified that he didn't like his position at KRON because it was primarily data entry, one of his supervisors threw things, and he missed his former job in the industry and his friends at the sta-

tion "more than anything."

Buttressing that testimony, Wotman called well known labor employment and openly gay attorney Jeff Sloan for testimony. Sloan was romantically involved with Mele, and the two had intimately discussed the alleged workplace harassment at KOFY as well as Mele's troubles at KRON.

When Mele read him the letter he had written to Lincoln asking for his job back, Sloan said the two "had a major confrontation about it."

Mele returned to KOFY, but said the harassment did not stop as promised so he quit in 1995 and later filed a sexual harassment complaint and lawsuit against Gabbert. He is currently employed in the computer industry.

During cross examination by attorney James Goodfellow, a sexual harassment litigator, Gabbert said that he did not consider telling sexual jokes or comments or discussions of his sexual activities harassment unless employees complained. Gabbert also denied that he ever groped Mele, acknowledged that he conducted his own inquiry of KOFY employees about Mele's sexual harassment claim, and said that he believed that sexual harassment standards were different for gays and straights.

Wotman told the *Bay Area Reporter* that although the matter was settled and he could not discuss it, the allegations of Gabbert's conduct were "very outrageous," and that Mele had "landed back on his feet" and was recovering from the alleged psychological distress.

Schwacter said that he felt Gabbert "did very well" during his testimony to the jury, and that he had been prepared to continue to litigate the defense when Gabbert decided to settle the case. Gabbert left for a media conference in Europe shortly after the case ended.

Gabbert recently sold the KOFY-TV station for more than \$170 million, and will transfer ownership of the operation in June. ▼

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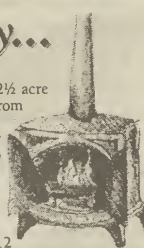
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**LGL. NOTICES**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 221823**  
The following person(s) are doing business as D. B. Images, 512 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Galen F. Cook. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 04/02/98 the statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/02/1998  
**APRIL 9, 16, 23, 30, MAY 7, 1998**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF  
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**  
In the Matter of the Application of James Leland Stoner, Order to show cause for change of name. The application of James Leland Stoner for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that James Leland Stoner has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to James Leland Stone. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 21st day of May, 1998 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the Bay Area Reporter, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this day of April 10, 1998.  
**APRIL 16, 23, 30, MAY 7, 1998**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO  
SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**  
Date of Filing Application: April 02, 1998. To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: Il Barone Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 21624 Larkin St. San Francisco CA 94109. For the following type of License: 41 ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE.  
**APRIL 23, 30, MAY 7, 1998**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR  
CHANGE OF NAME NO 993776**  
The application of Coleen R. Suguitan for change of name, having been filed in court, and it appearing from said application that Coleen Suguitan has filed an application proposing that Coleen Suguitan name be changed to Coleen Regero Catu. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 1st of May 1998, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. Room 218. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this day of March 20, 1998.  
**APRIL 23, 30, MAY 7, 1998**

**LGL. NOTICES**

partment X-4 on the 1st of May 1998, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. Room 218. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this day of March 20, 1998.  
**APRIL 23, 30, MAY 7, 14, 1998**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 222554**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Black Cat Clothing, 19 Heron St. SF, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brian W. Rick. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on May 4, 1998 the statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 4, 1998  
**MAY 7, 14, 21, 28, 1998**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 222420**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Level Works, 1509 Golden Gate Avenue #301 SF, CA, 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Keith M. Robinson. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 04/28/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 28, 1998  
**MAY 7, 14, 21, 28, 1998**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 222506**  
The following person(s) are doing business as G. P. Mosaics, 348 Lexington St. SF, CA, 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gregory Dawson. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/98 the statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/02/1998  
**MAY 7, 14, 21, 28, 1998**

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**Changes since 'the protease moment'**  
Eric Rofes on 'Opposite Sex,' 'Dry Bones Breathe,' and life in the vanguard.

page 54

**Rock 'n' roll genetics**  
Rufus Wainwright on Mom, Dad, and a daring debut.

page 47



**Bad behavior**  
Nan Goldin returns to Naples 'Ten Years After.'

page 44



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 19 • 7 May 1998

## My giant

An interview with *Wilde* star Stephen Fry by Erin Blackwell

In his suite at the St. Francis Hotel, the comedian and novelist Stephen Fry is thoroughly adorable. Like a great moon encircled by caroming asteroids, he poses for his photo while the interviewer before me uses his phone and a publicist tries to introduce us. Fry charms us all, as if he were a great wide-eyed schoolboy and we were all his dear friends, come to take tea.

When the hubbub subsides, Fry slouches down into an armchair and receives my questions with an enthusiasm that is part well-bred British manners, part Cambridge erudition, and part manic publicity tour reflex. He will spend his first visit to San Francisco promoting his role in *Wilde*, the opening film of the San Francisco International Film Festival, before leaving the next day for a sprawling series of personal appearances in L.A.

But for the moment, he is mine. Or rather, we are both Oscar's.

At six foot four-and-a-half, Fry is an inch-and-a-half taller than the Irish genius he impersonates in director Brian Gilbert's lush new biopic. He disagrees with George Bernard Shaw's contention that Wilde was a pathological giant, but toys with the concept. "He was big," says Fry. "He had the qualities of a giant: gentleness and sweetness of nature. Whereas people who are small have a kind of aggressive, chest-out sort of way. He had a very open, sweet-natured way."

Asked if he himself is open and sweet-natured, he giggles in an awkward and sweet-natured way.

"I like to think I try to be," he says. "Gosh, we all get crabby-mannered, but I think it is innate. It goes with being tall. From your adolescence, when you start to shoot up, you tend to apologize for it. And you feel clumsy and large. And you're aware that shorter people can be aggressive towards you, because they think you're looking down on them. So you go the extra mile to show that you're not looking down on them. You find ways of being on the same level. Literally, to here."

"Like slouching," I suggest, which we're both doing. page 55 ▶



Marc Geller



Coming soon to the corner of Howard and 3rd Streets: Keith Haring's Red Dog.

## keith Haring conquers sf

by Roberto Friedman

San Francisco deplorers of public sculpture, your day of reckoning is near! Beginning tomorrow (Friday, May 8), ten large, colorful, and lively sculptures by the late gay artist Keith Haring will be installed in public locations around the city, where they will remain through September 8 as a San Francisco Art Commission (SFAC) exhibition to complement the major Haring retrospective which has just opened at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA).

Haring first painted his famous graphics of barking dogs, radiant babies, and dancing figures in NYC subways, so this return to free public art completes the circle of his fabulous career. Among the last works he created before his untimely death in 1990 from AIDS, the sculptures were completed posthumously following his specifications.

The trademark Haring stick figures make for surprisingly successful full-scale sculpture: full of humor, vibrant color, and expressive vitality, they animate their public corners. Here is an example of big public art which is friendly yet profound, accessible to everyone without dumbing down. Richard Newirth, Director of Cultural Affairs of the SFAC, said, "Keith Haring's work is so universal and engaging, it will be a great addition to the cityscape during the summer months."

About his sculptures Haring himself said, "Painted, they no longer look like metal but like bright, shiny toys that should be played with." Maybe their monumental presence and good cheer will help win over some humbugs who can't wrap their minds around the public display of civic art.

Following are the locations of the Haring installations confirmed as of presstime: Howard at 3rd: *Red Dog*; Grace Cathedral: *Self-Portrait*; Union Square: *Untitled (Figure Balancing on a Dog)*; *Untitled (S-Man)*; War Memorial Complex (Van Ness): *Julia*; *Untitled (Three Dancing Figures)*; *Untitled (Figure on a Baby)*; Market St. at Sanchez: *Untitled (Ringed Figure)*; Pier 39: *Yellow Arching Figure*; *Blue Curling Figure*. ▼

For more information about the SFAC outdoor sculpture exhibition, call 252-2559. The Keith Haring retrospective is on view through September 8 at SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. Call 357-4000. Rare screenprints and original works by Haring are on exhibit through May 30 at Martin Lawrence Galleries, 465 Powell. Call 956-0345.

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by Roberto Friedman  
and May Fool

Let's start with the police blotter, shall we? During intermission at the rock musical *Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls* at the Transmission Theatre recently, star **D'Arcy Drollinger**, who plays the showgirl Chablis, was nabbed by a passing officer of the law while taking a quick pee break out back in Norfolk Alley — caught, literally, with her miniskirt up and her pantyhose down. We're waiting to hear what Drollinger's punishment for public urination will be — rumors are that she will be able to repay her debt to society by doing community service sweeping the streets. Think Day-Glo orange "public servant" vest and full drag, and keep tuned for the follow-up.

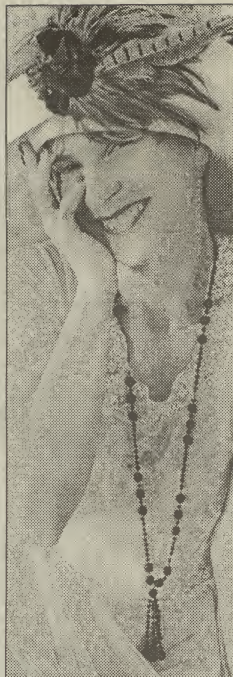


D'Arcy Drollinger as Chablis.

*Showgirls*, by the way, has been such a hit at the Transmission that it has been extended, Thursday nights through June. Call 861-6906 for reservations. Just be sure to use the lav in the front of the house.

## Spit and polish

Happy "National Masturbation Month," everybody. Yes, to you and us it's merely May, but to those wacky folks at tasteful sextoy emporium Good Vibrations, who are just about as relentlessly sex-positive as they come, it's a whole lunar cycle dedicated to the fine art of self-pleasuring. To kick



Carol Queen

off the onanistic festivities, sex educator **Carol Queen**, author of *Exhibitionism for the Shy*, will once again host "A Salute to Masturbation!" video screening, on May 9 at 6:30 and 9 p.m., this time at the "swanky" Parkway Theatre in Oakland.

Good Vibes spokesperson **Mindi Levine** told *Out There* that Queen will be screening a compilation of clips from sex ed and erotic films — "similar to Art History class, but all about wanking." Levine also encouraged our readers to enter the Top Ten contest by sending in a list of your ten favorite euphemisms for masturbating. Is there a *bad* euphemism for masturbating? We could not

resist asking her to provide us with some of the juiciest entries submitted so far.

"Male or female?"

Naturally, we chose our favorite category, male, and so were treated to a litany of charming gerund phrases such as: polishing the banister, making a milkshake, keeping the census down, bopping the baloney, paddling the pickle, and — our own personal favorite — yanking the yam.

Admission to the one-handed salute is \$5; for more information, call Good Vibrations at 974-8980, or 1-800-289-8423.

## Candy man

Honestly, we were just standing around, minding our own business in the lobby of the War Memorial Opera House during the second intermission of the San Francisco Ballet's marvelous *Swan Lake*, when who should come along but genius choreographer **Mark Morris**, who was attending the ballet only one week away from the performance of his *Maelstrom* during the company's Grand Finale Program. (What a clever play on words on the title of the BAR's letters-to-the-editor column!)

Morris mingled with the *hoi polloi* just long enough to scope out the Symphony candy bars at the concession stand (priced to move into moneyed pockets at \$3 per), but what most astonished us was how none of the balletgoers

around us seemed to notice the celebrity in our midst. Not the most sophisticated crowd at the *Lake*, true — there were more than a few nuclear families in from Walnut Creek to take in some culture — but you'd think even the most casual dance follower would notice a modern master flitting around the candy stand.

The milling crowd's eternal obliviousness was all the more surprising, given that Morris had just been on TV, buddying it up with cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** as part of that collaborative *Bach* project they did together. It was fun to watch queeny Mark twit and tease the intensely serious Ma a bit.

In any case, we could not stop ourselves from making the tiniest moue of acknowledgment when Mr. M dashed past, his lovely long kinky-curl hair wafting in the breeze, his expression composed and inscrutable, except for the subtlest sneer imaginable to show he knew we knew who he was — and he didn't care. Then exit stage left to his private box or wherever.

Such fleeting brushes with

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Mark Morris



## THEATRE

# 'Annie Sprinkle's Herstory of Porn: Reel to Real'

## Her brilliant career

by Heidi Beeler

With live commentary on a genre of basement cinema, *Annie Sprinkle's Herstory of Porn: Reel to Real* is a lot like *Mystery Science Theatre 3000*, except the science-fiction is replaced by porn, the mystery is gone, and 3000 is a rough approximation of the number of cocks and clits you watch Sprinkle suck, fondle, or otherwise pose with in a single evening's entertainment.

Directed by Emilio Cubeiro at the Bayfront Theatre, the show traces Sprinkle's personal "herstory" as a star, writer, and ultimately director and producer of skin flicks over two-and-a-half

decades, particularly in the first half of the show. I suspect this was because she was showing her oldest and almost exclusively het material. "Sex on camera is the easy part; it's the acting that's embarrassing," she confessed to us, and the blurred-out line seemed like a plea for patience, for herself in both her screen and live incarnations.

Blame it on my orientation, but her performance did seem to pick up in the second half, after Sprinkle had come out as a lesbian and was making artistic porn pieces like *War Is Menstrual Envy* and *The Sluts and Goddesses Video Workshop*. Sprinkle seemed increasingly at ease addressing the audience as the sex scenes ap-

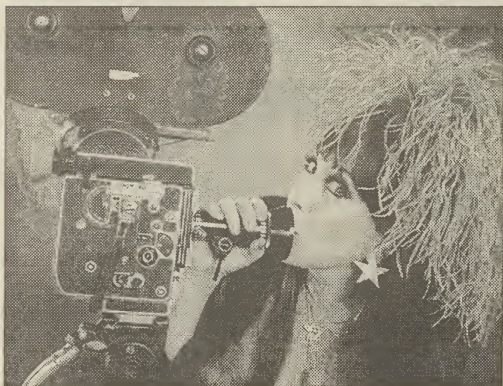
proached her current sensibility. By the time she showed clips of *Linda/Les & Annie: The First Female to Male Transsexual Story*, a piece shown at Frameline's film festival last year, she discussed more controversial material with confidence.

Of course, no one goes to an Annie Sprinkle extravaganza to watch heady — okay, make that intellectual — theater. The show is

a theatrical happening, and like *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, watching the opening-night crowd was a big part of the event. Annie Sprinkle wannabes appeared in black latex teddies and faux leopard coats, and one woman had her hair piled into a

1950s beehive à la Sprinkle's *Sluts and Goddesses* video. Burning incense, red crushed velvet curtains, and a giant slide of the "Big Apple Theatre: Best Porn in Town" all lent the atmosphere of a porn house. The free popcorn handed

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Annie Sprinkle

decades. Sitting onstage in a row of red theater seats facing the audience, Sprinkle charts her development as a porn artist through seven eras as film clips of her variations on "the old in-and-out" run on the screen behind her. With each era, Sprinkle dons a new costume and takes us to a new porn house, from the Pink Pussycat Sinema in Hollywood to the New Age Sex Multiplex in Taos to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Sometimes watching, sometimes acting and lip-synching along with the screen-sized Annie, she progresses through the show from teenage sexual deviant to S/M fantasy player to New Age passion guru to sex-positive lesbian and erotica producer.

The range of skin flicks shown would be interesting to any porn aficionado. The clips run the gamut from hilarious to hot to hellacious, and feature every kind of scene from sci-fi to sit-com take-off to spiritual tantric to documentary. There's even a new video short — *Teenage Mermaid Fantasia*, directed and edited by sex worker advocate Carol Leigh (aka Scarlet Harlot) — that's a sort of tongue-in-cheek "how-to" for porn production.

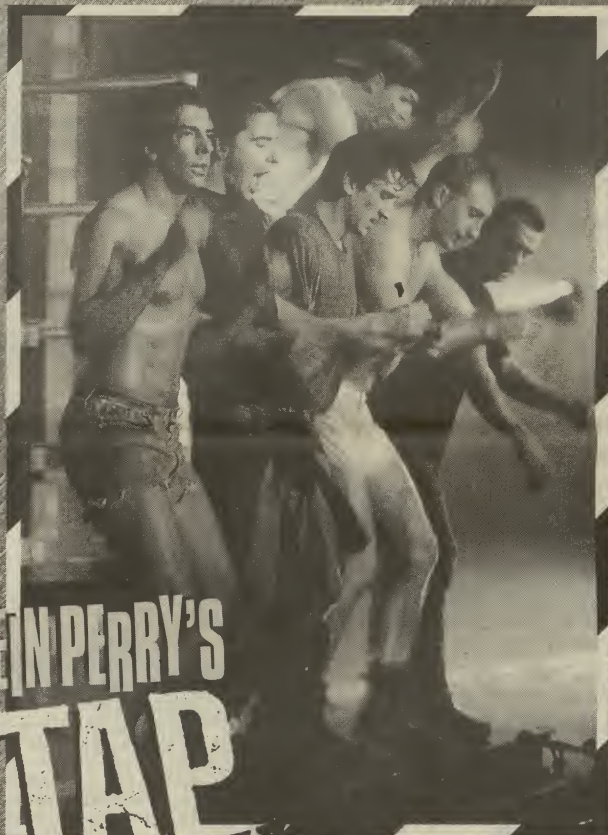
### Plea for patience

Yet Sprinkle's live commentary largely fell flat throughout the evening. Since her release of *The Sluts and Goddesses Video Workshop* in the early 90s, Sprinkle has been celebrated as a sex-positive feminist. You'd expect her to deliver a brassy, outrageous performance. Instead, she seemed uncomfortable in front of this live, opening-night audience. She stumbled over lines. Her comments were surprisingly tentative, even embarrassed and self-depre-

### A little rough

The show could have provided us with an interesting glimpse into her personal story — her motivations and experiences throughout an unusual career of creating sexual fantasies. But although she delivered a basic chronology of simple facts, like which grunting star she was lovers with when, Sprinkle offered no deeper insight or emotion. After one S/M scene, Sprinkle told us in a tone of voice you might use to

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A scene from Jeffrey Erbach's *Soft Like Me*.

## Subversive young directors

# Straight like me

by Brandon Judell

**W**e do not even in the least know the final cause of sexuality," a perturbed Charles Darwin once noted. "The whole subject is in the darkness." What's even darker right now is trying to figure out what makes a gay filmmaker.

After attending the recent 5th New York Underground Film Festival, an infamous annual event that claimed to be showcasing close to 30 features and shorts of gay interest (many headed for San Francisco), I thought it would be interesting to contact a few of these celluloid radicals who were working so hard and for so little money to bash our sensibilities. And since the directors I wanted to contact had products that seemed so extremely bent in nature, I presold this article as "A Look at the Gay Nether-Regions of Filmmaking." A problem arose, though, in that four of the five I contacted are straight.

"Are you openly gay?" I asked of Jeffrey Erbach, whose 27-minute, lushly beautiful, yet totally off-the-wall sci-fi pederast fantasy *Soft Like Me* is causing a slight uproar wherever it's screened.

"I'm not. I'm straight," the Winnipeg native explained. This matter is also confusing to his parents. "They don't really know how to approach something like this. The one comment that my Mom is fond of is, 'Why can't you

make happy movies?' I think she has an idea that my films are tragic in some sense, but my parents do joke about it. On the other hand, they might be serious when they think I'm fairly perverted or sick. That's something that they've said a couple of times. But coming from your parents, it doesn't mean much."

In this case, Ma and Pa might not be overreacting. *Soft Like Me* takes place on an isolated prairie farm. Its workers are nubile young boys enslaved in elaborate harnesses that won't allow them to either speak or run away. Even at night, they are forced to sleep hanging up like pieces of beef. They also serve as sexmates to the main farmer, and when soiled, are washed down intimately by the ranchhands. When the boys have lost their charms, it's time to be ground into meat. Much of the more risqué action here is intimated, but you get the idea quite clearly.

What's also quite obvious, theme aside, is that Erbach is a superb director. So why this plotline? "That's a rather difficult question. I'm not entirely sure what made me tackle the subject." But realizing his two previous efforts dealt with a tooth fairy who killed little children for their molars, and a boy who decided to be a frog and live in a swamp, you can't be that surprised.

"You know," he added, "when you're trying to make art, there's no such thing as a bad metaphor.

You can do no wrong, so you might as well kind of rupture the safe, little glass area that everyone has created around themselves in society."

### Fork fetish

The equally straight Kevin Di Novis' astonishing, purposely unhurried thriller *Surrender Dorothy* will hit San Francisco June 19 as part of Frameline's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. This is a simple tale about Trevor, a gynephobic busboy who steals the forks his favorite female customers have used. Once home, he masturbates with them in his mouth. Hey, this is not that satisfying, and it's hurting his gums. Why not just bribe his new, attractive junkie roommate Lanh into becoming a little girl named Dorothy? Lanh, you want drugs? Then wear this dress. The swap doesn't end there.

In one of recent gay cinema's great moments, just as he/she's about to be plowed, Lanh/Dorothy keeps insisting, "I'm not a faggot! I'm not a faggot! I'm not a faggot!"

Trevor counters, "I know, and I'm not a faggot, either."

Di Novis' first take on this script had the leads being of varied sexes, but he felt it was "trite. It kept reading like a Farrah Fawcett-Majors TV Movie-of-the-Week. I was like, 'What's the matter with this? Why isn't this visceral? Why isn't it gripping?'" It quickly became gripping once the

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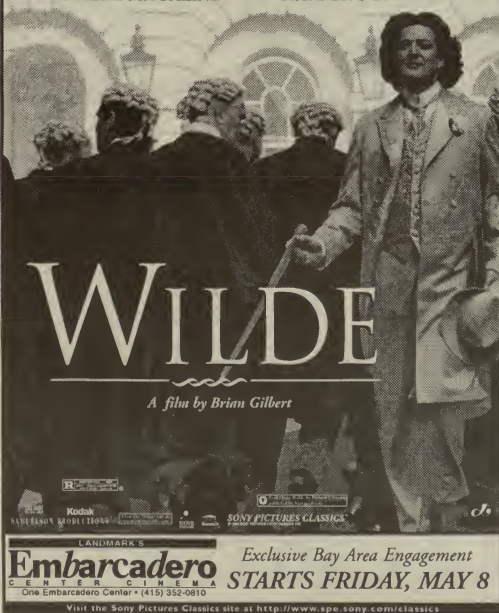
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## 'Wilde'

# A film of no importance

by Erin Blackwell

It is impossible to say whether Maria Djurkovic, Nic Ede, or Martin Fuhrer is most to be congratulated for the exquisite atmosphere created in the new British biopic about Oscar Wilde entitled *Wilde*. They were, respectively, production designer, costume designer, and director of photography. Their combined arts (of frame, lighting, decor, and costume) more than once make the viewer gasp in recognition, so spot-on is the film's evocation of late Victorian style, as rendered by Manet.

But costumes and sets are nothing without actors to wear and walk through them. Zoe Wanamaker in the role of Oscar's confidante, Ada "Sphinx" Leverton, anchors the film in its period and brings a rare focus to bear on her scenes. Perhaps because she has so little to do, she does it impeccably. The movie's most Wildean moment comes when she utters the word "rivulet." In a later, wordless shot, seated in a theater box, she makes one gesture with her fan which tells us all we need to know about the entire audience.

Star Stephen Fry fares less well in the title role. He does not know how to wear his costumes as if they were clothes. And that stuff on his head, be it living hair or wig, lies there like a dead albatross he can neither ignore nor acknowledge. He is neither beautiful nor ugly enough to play Wilde. Where he should be grotesque, he is merely plain. And there is no music in his voice, as there was in Oscar's, even after he ditched the brogue.

But then, Fry is not an actor. Not really. He's a writer (on his third novel) and performer (Jeeves for the BBC). He does not know how to begin to inhabit Wilde's contradictions. He doesn't attempt any wild Irish charm. There's no seduction in him, or play. No perceptible soul. He's just an oversized guy, happily married in the uppercrust Victorian un-



Stephen Fry as Oscar Wilde.

derstanding of the word, father of two, who stumbles upon the Greek vice, falls in love with a rotter, gets entangled in his boyfriend's family feud, and winds up in jail, a ruined man.

### 'Wronged'

Knowing how the story ends, Fry plays the attitude of "wronged innocent" from the get-go and never lets up. This approach, for which director Brian Gilbert has to share the blame, makes Wilde a bloody bore and gives the character no dizzyingly brilliant cheeky height (aka hubris, pride, or grace) from which to fall. As a lead, Fry makes a great supporting actor.

Around this unfortunate young man called Oscar dance Tom Wilkinson as Wilde's nemesis, the Marquess of Queensbury, and Jude Law as the fatal bait, Queensbury's son, "Bosie." These two, unhampered by any Great Man status, chew the well-appointed scenery until it whimpers. Law is too pretty to play Bosie, who really resembled a wistful

marmoset. (Casting seems to have confused Bosie with Dorian Gray.) But he sneers well and pouts to perfection. Wilkinson is sligher than the historical Marquess (who invented rules for amateur boxing), but his portrait of an absolute patriarch driven mad by the unruliness of other people's libidi is of archetypal quality. In him, the religious right have a poster child.

The women are less interesting, alas. Jennifer Ehle is the embodiment of simple goodness as Oscar's wife Constance. While she manages not to be boring, there's only so much a peaches-and-cream beauty can do with a series of heartfelt reaction shots as her husband sinks deeper and deeper into the sins of the flesh, without her. Vanessa Redgrave in the role of Oscar's mythic mother, "Speranza," appears to be having a grand old time playing a wild Irish gypsy witch, but her creation is too eccentric to inhabit the world of the film.

Less important matters, such as the script, are apt to make a viewer gasp with ennui. Although "based" on Richard Ellmann's 1984 biography, screenwriter Julian Mitchell's portrait of the Irish genius martyr queer plays fast and loose with the facts (as any work of fiction, even a biopic, inevitably must). Unfortunately, the bits he chooses to keep and the bits he chooses to leave out are strung together without a compelling dramatic line, even though the life as lived seems inherently theatrical.

### A shaft called 'Oscar'

The film opens in Leadville, Colorado, one of Wilde's stopovers during his whirlwind tour of the U.S. in 1882. That he visited a silver mine and opened a new shaft called "Oscar" is fact. Also fact: Wilde, the eponymous celebrity, was sent on this tour by D'Oyly Carte to publicize the New York production of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta *Patience*, which parodied the Aesthetic Movement in general and Oscar in particular. Wilde gamely exploited the opportunity to educate the barbarians by giving a series of wildly successful lectures. The film fails to establish this larger context, this stage which for Wilde was all the world.

We don't see Wilde meet Walt Whitman, whom he adored, or Henry James, whom he terrified. Similarly, later in the film, we don't see him take Andre Gide to Algiers,

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## FILM

# Fangs for the memories

by Gary Morris

Generation X" continues to provide cinematic fodder for Hollywood and the independent movement, in spite of the fact that the genre's been drained to the point of desiccation, and the once-fetching youth who helped forge the films are fast approaching decrepitude. (Movies like *Gummo* seem to be unconsciously acknowledging this by lowering the age-limit for their slacker trash to barely post-pubescent.)

For those bored by images of privileged suburban white brats and trust fund kids spouting shopping-mall nihilism (are you listening, Gregg Araki?), there's hope. Writer-director team Quentin Lee and Justin Lin's *Shopping for Fangs* is a self-styled "Generasian X" indie that playfully sends up its sources, which range from the dreaded Araki to more respectable influences like Wong Kar-wai, Hong Kong gangster epics, the glorious Brigitte Lin, touches of Hitchcock and Brian de Palma, and a tortured heroine who recalls Catherine Deneuve's psycho in *Repulsion*.

Shot mostly in L.A.'s San Gabriel Valley for under \$100,000, *Shopping for Fangs* is a ragged, good-natured mix of barely compatible genres: drama and dark fantasy, film noir and cultural commentary. The opening scene promises an urban, perhaps noirish thriller: a thug's attempt to rape a woman in a dark alley is interrupted by an avenging angel, a beautiful young Asian woman in sunglasses and a blonde wig (à la Wong Kar-wai's *Chunky Express*). But the film doesn't pursue the kind of dark vision implied here, opting instead for a sometimes bittersweet, often comic view of its characters as outsiders who can ultimately create their own identities and their own world.

The angel of the alley, we learn, is Trinh, a stylish waitress who spends her time outside the coffeshop pursuing a woman named Katherine. Katherine, who talks in monotones like Shelley Duvall, is married to a boring hunk named Jim (Clint Jung), but leads a double life in seemingly cooperating with this courtship. Katherine spends much of her time with a psychiatrist, trying to reconcile herself to a dull marriage to the hunky urban professional and figure out what's going on with Trinh. Meanwhile, Trinh brags about their affair to her fellow waitresses ("I am a lesbian!" she announces), but mysteriously, no one ever sees the two of them



The mysterious Trinh and Clarence (John Cho) in *Shopping for Fangs*.

together. Trinh also befriends Clarence (John Cho), a young gay man whose boyfriend lives far away in Taipei.

## Mysterioso

The film plays with viewer expectations in keeping Trinh's identity mysterious until the end. But she isn't the only character here with a hidden personality. Her counterpart is Phil (Radmar Rao), a lonely accountant who believes he's becoming a werewolf. True to its low-budget origins, *Shopping for Fangs* doesn't try to be overly fancy with the dicey transformation effects; it simply blacks out the screen between images of Phil's increasingly hairy face. Phil's worried when some of his friends and acquaintances are violently murdered, but again the film is evasive on the question of whether he's actually a murderer, or even if his "werewolfism" is real or a strange manifestation of Phil's sexual repression. The directors get points for gently skewering the cliché of the too-close Asian family, with Phil trying to balance his increasing slide into monsterdom with his busybody sister's constant attempts to get him laid and otherwise butt into his life.

Typical of the tone of the film is a scene where Jim, who's discovered his wife's alleged lesbian affair, goes to the restaurant and confronts Trinh. After exchanging nasty insults, Jim pulls a gun, but surprise! Trinh has one too, and they engage in a classic John Woo-style "Mexican standoff," each pointing a gun to the other's head. But the filmmakers can't resist having their fun. Trinh does a series of wildly exaggerated "chop-

socky" routines, and Jim ends up slugged out on the floor.

*Shopping for Fangs* is no masterpiece, but it's a diverting genre-bender that keeps its cultural critique bubbling nicely below the surface. Endearing actors (especially Rao as the maybe-werewolf and future star Jeanne Chin as Katherine) keep the viewer's mind off the sometimes slack pacing, and locating shooting in Los Angeles and environs adds scenic spice. ▼

*Shopping for Fangs* opens Friday, May 8 at Opera Plaza Cinemas.

## Wilde

◀ previous page

where he initiates the Frenchman into the colonial sex scene. These were nevertheless the "facts" of Wilde's aesthetic, homoerotic life, and duly documented. To ignore them is to trivialize Wilde and miss the scale (think *Titanic*) of his downfall, which continues to haunt queers and artists to this day.

What the film does show is a good deal of naked man flesh, minus members, intercut with scenes from the Wilde nursery, where Oscar's two tow-headed sons are interminably made to hear one of Papa's fairy tales, "The Selfish Giant." The so-called sex scenes are stunningly dull. Lacking in either passion or perversity, they fail the decadence test, serv-

ing to reduce Oscar to a "normal gay man." The voice-over use of the fairy tale is similarly meant to shape our take on Wilde, but it merely clutters up an already complex narrative, and only adds to the general domesticated tedium.

Far more disturbing than the film's arbitrary point of departure in Leadville is its abrupt ending in some unnamed foreign piazza, when the post-prison Oscar is reunited with Bosie. They fall into each other's arms (in a long shot) and, "That's all, folks!" No joy, no sorrow, no recriminations, no final break-up, no Paris, no death scene.

The film fails to establish any of this wider context. Oscar deserves better. And so do we. ▼

*Wilde* opens Friday, May 8 at Embarcadero Center Cinemas.

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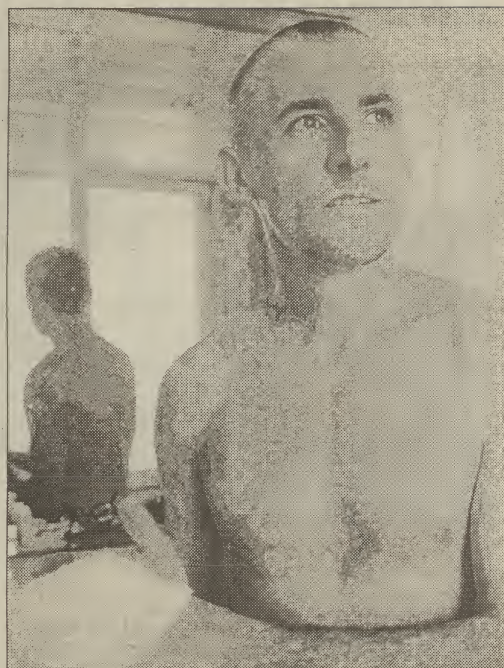
# Goldin years

by Glen Helfand

*Ten Years After* by Nan Goldin;  
Scalo, \$24.95

The world that Nan Goldin has captured in her photographs is soaked with intimacy, but it's gritty, urban and riddled with bad behavior at the very same time. The 1970s images of herself, her friends, and lovers sequestered in ratty apartments have the frayed New York flavor that has fueled countless "heroin chic" fashion ads. You know the type, frightfully thin models lolling on rumpled beds in dim rooms with light honeyed through the filter of grime-covered windows. They are images featuring the glamorously anguished, abused, dazed and dysfunctional. It's a testament to the power of Goldin's work and persona in those earlier works that she inspired the troubled main character of *High Art*, the stylish and harrowing opening night offering of this year's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

But living that kind of party-intensive lifestyle can be, and often is lethal. You've got to leave town sometimes if you want to survive. Goldin's latest book, *Ten Years After*, is a getaway from the East Coast grit that serves as the setting for much of her work. The compact volume includes two series of pictures taken in sun-drenched Italy, a decade between each. The first group, photographed in 1986, focuses on Goldin's friend, the legendary writer and John Waters actress Cookie Mueller, and her husband Vittorio Scarpato (both of whom have since died from AIDS). The second revisits the same terrain, with different characters, ten years later. This organizing conceit may sound simplistic, but it generates a poignancy that can only come from hindsight. And with its sunny settings, it seems a conscious effort to air out Goldin's art-world persona as the premiere



Pavel topless, Naples, 1996, by Nan Goldin.

chronicler of her generation's lifestyle disorders.

In many ways, *Ten Years After* does the trick. It affords the photographer the rare opportunity to address the past and show how she's grown as an artist and a person. The 1986 photographs, taken during her first visit to the breathtaking Amalfi coast near Naples, almost always include people. They're hanging out, taking walks, smoking, drinking, pissing, and cuddling. In a couple of images, a male arm is poised with a syringe poking out of it. Hillsides blooming with vibrant wildflowers provide slightly incongruous backdrops. Still, a sense of family camaraderie comes through, as the bonds of blood relatives and close friends are clearly revealed in many of these portraits. In a number of them, Mueller looks radiant, particularly in one taken in a Chinese restaurant in Positano. Clearly this environment works for her.

Two selections of Mueller's incisive and funny writings are included, illuminating the appeal of the terrain. "So the real cure for whatever ails you is a long stay in Italy," Mueller wrote in one of her infamous health advice columns. "Everyone here seems to be downright euphoric and they do it all without drugs. In the States, to get this high one would have to snort something. Here I believe it's the tomatoes." It's a breezy statement that's tinged with sadness when you take into account Mueller's fate.

As with much of her later work, Goldin's 1996 pictures portray a post-recovery moment. In these images, the friends have at-

tractively wizened faces and clear eyes. Their expressions have an overlay of personal discovery. The smiles seem more joyous, and seemingly earned through experiencing life the hard way. A handsome man named Pavel lounges in bed and shirtlessly washes up with strikingly lucid expressions. Similarly, in a series of amber-hued images, Neapolitan boys arm-wrestle with a boyish, perhaps drunken wholesomeness. Goldin also makes a departure from her earlier work here by focusing less on human subjects and more on landscapes, architecture, and religious sites. There are some marvelous images of the twinkling lights of Capri by night, a cheesy underwater crèche that has candy-colored Disney appeal, and a warm-hued detail of the murals in the Villa of the Mysteries at Pompeii.

In most of these images, it's clear that on this latter trip, Goldin took in a very different view of the Italian sights. As Guido Costa writes in the missive-like essay that introduces this section: "And perhaps only now, ten years after, are you able to open up your lens to take in other scenarios."

Compared to the size and scope of Goldin's previous book, the 500-page catalog to her 1996 *I'll Be Your Mirror* retrospective, *Ten Years After* has a travelogue breeziness. But it's a vacation with an elegiac edge. Like most of Goldin's work, the included images are imbued with bittersweet memories and a sense of loss. But in a decade of mulling things over, her vision has mellowed into something that continues to hold its edge, intimacy, and pertinence. ▼

## Annie Sprinkle

◀ page 39

out at the door was just stale enough to stick to your molars. And shorn-haired dykes in silk lounge jackets sold Sprinkle memorabilia — post-porn postcards, tit prints, videos, prayer candles — at a table bathed in red light.

Ultimately, though, what the show seemed to demonstrate best

was not that sexual fantasy is freeing, but how impersonal basic sex acts can be. ▼

**Annie Sprinkle's Herstory of Porn: Reel to Real** runs through May 16, Wednesdays through Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 8 & 10 p.m., at the Bayfront Theatre, Fort Mason. For tickets and information, call (415) 392-4400.



## San Francisco Ballet Into the empyrean

by Stephanie von Buchau

The great Danish *danseur*, Erik Bruhn, used to say about ballet partnering that when you put a man and a woman together on stage, the result was automatically sexual. Since Bruhn was gay — Rudolf Nureyev was one of his lovers — I always found this to be an oddly banal observation.

On the other hand, there are people who claim that George Balanchine put men and women together all the time without anything sexual happening, but that is as blinkered a view as Bruhn's. You have only to recall Lucia Lacarra enveloping Stephen Legate in *Agon* earlier in the San Francisco Ballet's season to recognize Balanchine's overt sexuality.

Helgi Tomasson, San Francisco Ballet's artistic director, has a reputation for excessive cool in male-female duets. The only cou-

pling I can remember of his being at all arousing was the rape scene in his otherwise forgettable Joan of Arc ballet. It's possible that says more about me than about Tomasson, but his latest work, *Silver Ladders*, does nothing to dispel this anti-Bruhn position.

The beautiful Yuan Yuan Tan, looking as regal as a distant planet in a tiana and powder blue tunic, "couples" (and I use that word cautiously) with Roman Rykin in two impersonal duets, after which they mount silver ladders that have descended from the flies, and sail off into the empyrean. But why? And to what purpose?

The program note suggests enlightenment, but there is nothing in Tomasson's movement to the irregular beats of Joan Tower's derivative score of the same name to suggest that the pairing has elevated anyone's consciousness. At best, perhaps the couple got an endorphin high from their energetic aerobics. Tan, with those ex-

quisite extensions, looks gorgeous, but there was absolutely no spiritual connection in her pairing with Rykin — nothing like the ethereal romance that she and Vadim Solomakhia created in *Swan Lake*. (You can catch them together one last time, Saturday night, May 9.)

Part of the problem may be that Tomasson originally cast Lacarra with Rykin, and when the Spanish ballerina suffered a stress fracture, Tan moved into the lead. *Silver Ladders* is a crowd-pleaser with its ravishing lighting, its dancers seemingly suspended in mid-air behind a scrim, and its undeniable rush of energy. Male and female corps scurry in unison as the orchestra pounds out Tower's Stravinsky imitations. (You always know you're in trouble with new music when a quote from some earlier composer is the most arresting moment in the score.)

### Musical illuminations

Tomasson gave himself an additional handicap by opening the program with Mark Morris' infelicitous *Maelstrom*. This work continues to astonish, no matter how often I see it. With Roy Malan, Roy Bogas, and David Kadarauch playing Beethoven's "Ghost" Trio so magnificently, Morris' musical illuminations not only make you listen deeper to the score, but they inevitably cause anything following to look a little incoherent and unmusical.



Yuan Yuan Tan and Roman Rykin in SF Ballet's *Silver Ladders*.

## Matthias Goerne at Herbst Songs in the key of life

by Paul Thomason

Within a remarkably short time, the young German baritone Matthias Goerne has become one of the most talked-about new singers on the international classical music circuit. His recordings on the London/Decca and Hyperion labels have paired him with master pianists like Graham Johnson, Vladimir Ashkenazy, and Andreas Haeflinger. Both recordings and live appearances have garnered the sort of reviews about which most singers only dream. So when San Francisco Performances suddenly added a recital by Goerne to its offerings this season, it was extremely good news indeed.

The recital (in Herbst Theatre last Wednesday, April 29) offered songs by Robert Schumann and Franz Schubert, all on texts by Heinrich Heine. The first half was Schumann's popular cycle *Dichterliebe*. After intermission there were seven more Schumann songs, plus six from Schubert's cycle *Schwanengesang*. It was the sort of programming which turns some of us into warm goo.

As long as I concentrated on the marvelous piano-playing of Graham Johnson, that warm feeling continued. It was note perfect, filled with emotion, and seemed to be totally spontaneous, as if Johnson were making it up on the spot, rather than playing notes written in the last century.

### Bobbing and weaving

Alas, the baritone's contribution to the evening was much less successful. All night he seemed to be doing a Stevie Wonder impersonation, constantly bobbing and weaving around (while clutching the piano) in a most distracting manner. Troublesome high notes were always accompanied by his standing on his tiptoes, and once he ending up with his nose buried



Baritone Matthias Goerne

in his right armpit, as if checking on his deodorant.

Goerne's voice itself has a rich lower register when he actually sings out fully. But when he sings softly, the voice often takes on a curiously constricted, bottled quality (and many times his singing was so soft we heard him gasping for breath more clearly than we heard the music). But it was not the sound of the voice I found so off-putting, as much as the arch, precious interpretations Goerne gave us, at the expense of communicating honest emotion. Perhaps this was inevitable, since he studied with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, two highly acclaimed singers whose own lieder performances were often so mannered and fussy that the soul of the music was smothered beneath mounds of questionable minutia.

All evening Goerne seemed to be working very hard to do exactly as he had been told, as if his recital was an exam and the audience was a demanding teacher. His singing came from the head, not the heart. So it failed to move me, and when great songs by Schumann and Schubert do not touch a listener's soul, one can only be sad. ▼

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## Straight like me

◀ page 40

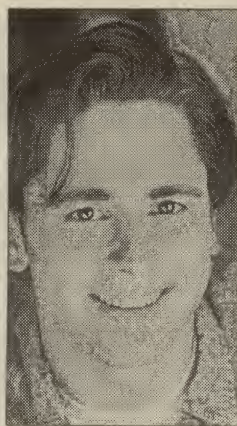
characters were both male.

"People reacted more strongly to the script," De Novis, who resides in Los Angeles, recalls. "But suddenly nobody was as concerned about the abusive nature of the relationship as they had been when a woman had been involved. They wanted to categorize these guys more than anything. 'Are they straight? Are they gay? Are they bisexual? Are they transgendered?'"

To make sure his take on the eccentric liaison was accurate, Di Novis researched gender reassignment, abuse, and feminist theory. "I also read a lot of prison literature, because I found that a lot of prison relationships mirror what Trevor and Lanh are doing. A lot of inmates are either coerced into or bribed to assume a feminine role by growing their hair long, by wearing feminine clothes, and by doing cell chores. I found it really interesting that nominally straight men on the outside, once inside a prison, forge this relationship that really defies their pre-existing categories, because their society has become much smaller."

## Glitter but not gay

Talking about small societies, director Danny Roth, straight even though he wore facial glitter to his 15-minute, tongue-in-cheek film's screening, has indeed created one. His is populated by a gang of seductive, HIV-positive teens who have come up with a new way to spend their days and



Director Danny Roth

nights: "T.A.G.—The AIDS Game." Whoever can infect the most strangers, either by rape or injection, gets the most points. There are categories: child, officer, drag queen, man on the street. (His screenwriter, Scott C. Smith, he wants you to know, is gay.)

Mr. Roth is surprised that some people are reacting harshly to his movie and that some gay festivals, like OUTFEST, are outright rejecting it. "When you're throwing a gay festival, you can't be so blind to think that all gay films have to have this great couple who live a beautiful life. That's what you see in gay films, mostly. Then you throw a naked guy in it."

"T.A.G.—The AIDS Game" just happens to have a gay lead, or maybe not a gay lead. That's the

other issue. Yes, the Billy character [a teen] does rape Edmund [a married heterosexual], but he's an intravenous drug-user, and he does fool around with his girlfriend. So how can an audience member say, 'You are portraying the gay community in a bad light?' Who was gay in the film?

"And you know, there are some gay people who aren't so nice. I've met them."

## Wonder Woman

Finally there's the jubilant, 7-minute "Wonder Woman: Battle with a Basher." This crowd-pleaser has the superhero chasing a serial gay attacker, but during the sprint, she takes time off to get her hair and nails done, plus do a little shopping. Of course, the villain, in the end, gets caught.

Cary Curran says, "I'm the quintessential fag hag."

Brian Winkowski says, "Yes, the quintessential fag hag, me being the fag."

The two New York directors, who also star in their video, are additionally cabaret performers. They decided to make "Wonder Woman" to give themselves time to change costumes between schtick. Suddenly, their effort is even more in demand around the country than they are.

BAR: Is your relationship sort of like the one depicted in The Object of My Affection?

Cary Curran: If I had known Brian in high school, I'm sure I would have been in love with him. Luckily, I've gotten beyond that stage. You know, we'd love to be in San Francisco, Can you arrange it?

BAR: We'll try. ▼

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# The buzz on Rufus Wainwright

by Gregg Shapiro

I can't remember the last time that the advance word on a singer/songwriter's debut disc was as powerful and pervasive as it is about Rufus Wainwright's self-titled album on Dreamworks. He's already been featured in preview pieces in *The Advocate* and *Details*. Since you can't always believe everything you read, the early buzz from other musicians, such as Michael Penn and Kim Fox, both of whom gushed with praise for Wainwright, is exceptional.

Wainwright's 12-track debut is unlike anything you've ever heard. As classical as it is contemporary, it's hard to believe that the man who wrote these songs isn't even 25 yet. It could be in the genes (his mother is Kate McGarrigle and his father is Loudon Wainwright III), but genetics don't always guarantee rock stardom (don't forget Chastity Bono's band Ceremony... or better yet, do). I talked with Rufus Wainwright recently by phone.

**Gregg Shapiro:** By avoiding the obvious influences and comparing your music to that of your parents (Kate McGarrigle and Loudon Wainwright III), I've been describing the album as Nilsson meets Radiohead. How accurate do you think that is?

**Rufus Wainwright:** (laughs) Well, that's good. I've heard everything from David Cassidy meets Kurt Weill... that's probably a little more accurate. I never knew much about Nilsson, and I don't know much about Radiohead, although I've been hearing them a lot recently.

**Did you receive much musical encouragement from your parents, who are both musicians?**

Yeah. I was basically, totally trained by my mother from a very young age. I wanted to do it the whole time. I forced them to do it (laughs). Yes, very, very encouraged, but mostly through my urging as an annoying little talent-monger-child.

**I'm sure you've heard the talk about this year being the "year of children of musicians making music." With an album by Chris Stills (son of Stephen) already in the stores, and more albums to come, what do you think about this idea?**

I've heard and it's definitely true. I've run into a lot of those people. One night, I was playing at Largo, and I asked the audience if anyone else was from Montreal, and one person responded, "I am, I am." Afterwards, that person came up to me, and it was Adam Cohen, the son of Leonard [Cohen]. He was sitting with Chris [Stills], they're very good friends. The three of us hung around together for a while. Also, at the time, I was working with Ethan Johns, whose father is Glyn Johns. It's definitely happening. This is the year.

**Is the song "Beauty Mark" about your mother?**

Yes, it is. It's about her... the life that none of us will ever be able to lead.

**Have you written a song about your father?**

I have, actually, yes. I sang it last night, for the first time in a long time. It's very long and very dramatic and very sad (laughs). It's called "Two Gold Rings." It's not very sad, it's just very pensive, very low. It's about how, sometimes, when I was growing up, I felt that the only thing that tied us together were these two gold rings that we have to wear, because my father's kind of a WASPy guy, and it's the family ring... that's what it's about.

**You are mentioned by name in the song "Song For Gaby," which was written by your Aunt Anna [McGarrigle]. Do you make any more appearances in any other songs by your mother, your father, or your aunt?**

I pop in and out. There's "Rufus Is A Tit Man," that my father wrote about me breast-feeding. My mother also wrote a song about me and her, on the album before the last one, about me going away to school, and about how she'll miss me building fires for her in the country (laughs). Missing our

little romantic interludes.

**What a good son you were.**

I know. I was a perfect son. The perfect son, and some. Just kidding. And then there's "St. Valentine's Day 1978," by Anna. I'm the one who painted the black heart [in the song] and brought it to her. It's a song to me.

**There are some references made to opera in songs such as "Damned Ladies" and "Beauty Mark." Do you consider yourself to be an opera buff?**

Oh, I am the world's last, biggest opera buff. Opera is my favorite music on earth.

**Do you have a favorite opera?**

I have several. At the moment, I'm really fond of *Pelleas and Melisande* by Debussy. I'm a Ver-dian, by heart.

**Are you currently in love?**

No. I'm not in love today, but I

might be tomorrow. The next day after that, I probably won't be (laughs). I fall in love for very short periods of time.

**Did you have an easy or traumatic coming out?**

I think, as with everybody my age, it was traumatic, but mainly because of AIDS. That was the biggest, traumatic part for me. As for coming out to friends and family, it was pretty much expected (laughs). My favorite toy, when I was a kid, was an apron. I'd dance around in it, pretending to be Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz*.

**If you weren't making music, what would you be doing?**

I would be a great painter (laughs).

**Do you currently paint?**

Yes. I did all the artwork, which are collages, mostly, on my record, too. That's what I'd be doing. I'd just move into that.



Rufus Wainwright

**I definitely love visual arts. In fact, I think it's a much more peaceful and healthier thing to be doing (laughs).**

**I think Joni Mitchell has said something similar to that. She'd rather be painting.**

**Yeah. I'd rather be painting...with Joni. ▼**



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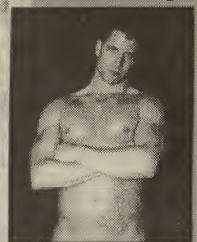
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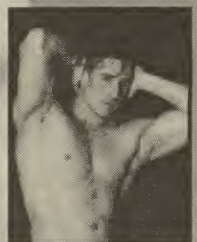
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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# Countdown to Chicago

by Mister Marcus

It's just 17 days (Sunday, May 24) until the 20th International Mr. Leather spectacular in Chicago at the Congress Theatre. There are over 27 parties planned in conjunction with leatherdom's biggest competition. In addition, the Mr. Ebony in Leather contest will be produced by Cain Berlinger at the Leatherneck on Saturday afternoon, May 23.

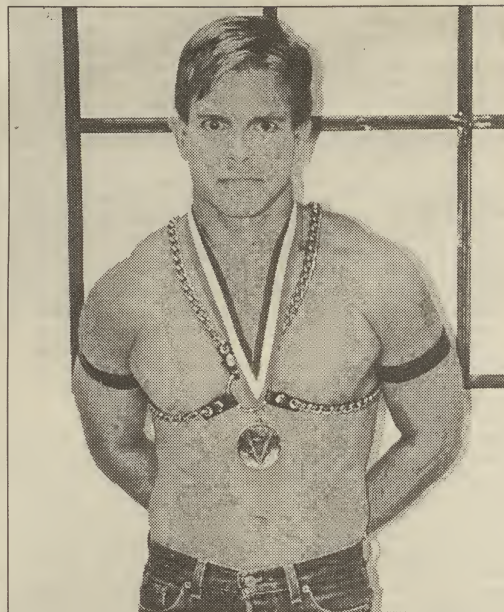
Besides all the leather folk who will be there, the Great Lakes Bears have their big Bearfest going on as well. Expect all the bars, restaurants and sex clubs to be overflowing with people hell-bent on having fun in the Windy City.

As for the total number of contestants who will be competing this year, that figure is open to conjecture. As of Sunday, May 3, only 38 applications had been received at IML headquarters. That's a far cry from the projected 70 or more who would compete. And would you believe two Bay Area contestants have not yet sent in their applications? Tsk-tsk. Some promoters/applicants do wait until the last minute.

As far as I know, the last big leather contest took place Saturday night, May 2, at the Faultline Bar when Mr. Leather Los Angeles was chosen. At my deadline, the results were not yet in. I guess my "stringer" got caught up in the madness that only prevails in the City of the Angels.

All around the country, contestants are hunkering down to study, write speeches, and get their leather gear ready. Here on the home front, Carlos Larranaga at Image Leathers has been up to his ears in special orders. At least half a dozen aspirants from around the country have trekked to Faghdad by the Bay to have Carlos make their leather competition outfits. Hopefuls from as far away as Philadelphia, Miami, D.C. and the Big Apple are flying in and out for fittings. That says a lot about San Francisco's leather expertise!

Besides the leather contest, the International Bootblack Competition will be taking place that weekend. Last year, our own "Driller" won the title, and he will travel to Chicago to "shine aside." If any of you are interested in competing, write to Marc Peurye,



Ronnie Fanshier is Mr. Leather of all Texas and competes for the IML title later this month.

IBBC, 5015 North Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640, or you can download an application and the rules of the contest by clicking on:

[www.imrl.com/iml98/bootblack/ibcmain.htm](http://www.imrl.com/iml98/bootblack/ibcmain.htm). *Whew!*

While all this IML preparation is under way, let us not forget the International Ms. Leather contest coming up in August in Atlanta and the International Mr. Drummer competition in San Francisco on Saturday,

Sept. 26. The Drummer soiree will take place at the Russian Center this year, and next weekend, the first regional competition (Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer) will be happening at the Dallas Eagle. It's the 10th anniversary edition of that title, and they already have over a half-dozen contestants from around the state, including Mr. Drummer of All Texas.

Last Saturday night, May 2, another IML contender was selected in Seattle at Neighbors Night Club. The new Ms. Washington State Leather is Meredith Eileen Fix. The first runner-up was Deborah Barrows, and the second

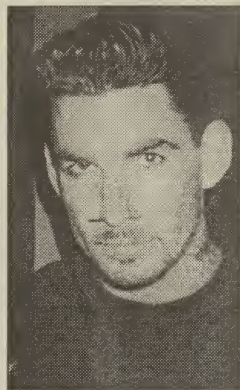
runner-up was Destiny Boegelsack. It looks like IML will have a nice selection of leather women to choose from. I'll have photos for you soon!

In Pittsburgh, Penn., also last Saturday night, the Mr. Pennsylvania Drummer and Drummer Boy contests were held. The win-

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Bazaar



One more IML hopeful: the sensual and smoldering Mr. Southern California Leather Anthony Russell.

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, May 7

John Dopp, David Lamadue and Glennon Sutter will pick Mr. October 1999 for the Bare Chest Calendar at 2200 at the Powerhouse.

The Golden Gate Guards MC hosts a \$7 beer/soda bust at Daddy's from 2100 to 2400. Also, a raffle for their weekend run in October!

### Saturday, May 9

Mr. SF Leather Stephan Edwards hosts a beer/soda bust to benefit the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago at Daddy's, 1900-2200. Club colors will be surrendered for the Colors Project.

Mr. Sacramento Drummer contest at The Bolt in the capital at 2200. Staying overnight? The Beverly Garland is the host hotel. Call (916) 929-7900. Winner will compete for Mr. Northern California Drummer later this year.

Need more electricity in your sex life? A cock and ball electricity class by Richard Hunter at 1530 might fill the bill. Call 621-4145 or e-mail: [Scarltr@aol.com](mailto:Scarltr@aol.com) for location and other information.

### Weekend, May 9-10

Cal Eagles MC's overnight run to Nevada City for \$65, with motel, banquet, hospitality suite and continental breakfast included. Call 267-0560 or e-mail: [CalEagles@Blacklris.com](mailto:CalEagles@Blacklris.com) to sign up.

### Sunday, May 10

Beginning today and every Sunday thereafter, massages at Blow Buddies from 1800 to 2030. Only \$1 per minute, with a five-minute minimum. Benefits the AIDS Emergency Fund.

### Wednesday, May 13

The third Mr. Hairy Chest Contest at Daddy's, 2000-2400. Winner gets a title vest, and the Lollipop Guild will entertain! Don't miss it!

Wet Wednesday at 933 Harrison. Doors open between 2000 and 2300. A good night to wear latex. Call 863-HEAD and skid on in!

### Thursday, May 14

Mr. November 1999 Bare Chest Contest at the Powerhouse; The Edge Bar's seventh anniversary party; Buttrageous Contest at Daddy's — plus free STD screening at Blow Buddies. A festive night!

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# Wankers in paradise

by Sweet Lips

Yes, it's definitely time to lay in a new supply of lube (preferably Eros), as today, Thursday, May 7, is National Masturbation Day! It's that special day when all you wankers out there — and you know who you are — get to pull your puds with pride. For the next 24 hours, all I want to hear is the lovely sound of your well-oiled poles being polished! I hear Kleenex sales at Walgreen's are through the roof!

For those devotees of the art of self-pleasure, don't miss the notorious Masturbators Hall of Fame at Good Vibrations, on display all this month. While you're there, be sure to enter their drawing for a \$100 gift certificate simply by listing your "Top 10 Euphemisms for Masturbation." (Just 10?!?) Join the GV bunch at the Parkway Theatre in Oakland on May 9 when — back by popular demand! — the illustrious and effervescent Carol Queen hosts "A Salute to Masturbation," featuring a slew of clips from sex-ed and porn videos. Be there or be square, chicken chokers! And wear your raincoats!

A note to Emperor Bobby Pace, still patrolling the plank at Linda's Phone Booth on South Van Ness Ave.: Your old buddy, George "Madame" Lafarge, of the Styx Bar in Long Beach was in town last week and asked after you. He is looking divine.

Big Bird alert: I ran into the feathery one recently and found out that he'd been named Employee of the Month at his Safeway. They're running suspiciously low on sesame seeds, however!

Mark Campanella's new husband, Joel, is a real hottie! My spies saw them buying baby clothes last week. And I thought



When columnists meet: Sweet Lips (right) plants one on Puerto Vallarta's answer to Hedda Hopper, H.L. ('Tidbits by the Bay') Perry.

all along that Mark's tummy was courtesy of Budweiser. I still have my christening gown if you two need to borrow it, and keep in mind that I make a charming godfather and/or godmother.

That handsome Brett from Down Under will be here for a visit on the 22nd. Wonder if he will cross-dress again? That's a man made for marabou and mascara!

That scintillating Steve Suss, owner of the Embers/Avenue in Portland and a soon-to-be birthday boy (May 8), will be staying with yours truly for four days come May 11. The Embers/Avenue's 26th anniversary is next month! Good work, doll!

Dick Deemer (his real name) has departed our fair metropolis until late September. He's abandoned us for his annual gig at the Pines on Fire Island. (Darling: Remember our Puerto Vallarta trip November 30!)

Gardening gurus of the Bay Area should be aware that the

next workday at the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park is Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Gardening gloves and tools are provided. Bagels and coffee are served in the morning, and there's a donated lunch at noon. And yes, Greta Grass has been removed from the jacaranda tree that she somehow wedged herself into last workday. Those Jaws of Life really come in handy! The NAMG is located in the eastern end of the park, north of the bowling greens and west of the tennis courts. Tours of the grove are conducted every Thursday, 9-11 a.m. Call 415-750-8340 for more information.

Please come on down to the Polkstrasse and the Polk Rendezvous (1303 Polk) on Sunday, May 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., to celebrate Bart Dreyer's 60th birthday bash. Great food, special drink prices and fun!

Finally, all you mothers' sons reading this piffle, remember to call, write or visit the old dear on Sunday, May 10, Mothers' Day! Some flowers and a bonbon or two would be nice! No White Shoulders! ▼

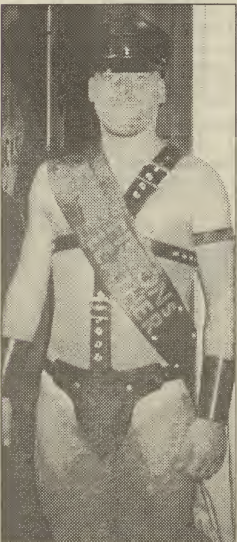


## Cocktail Hour

## Mister Marcus

◀ page 48

ners will compete for Mr. Mid-Atlantic Drummer at the Baltimore Eagle later this year. From all reports, the winner and his lover/boy, Scott Reikofski and



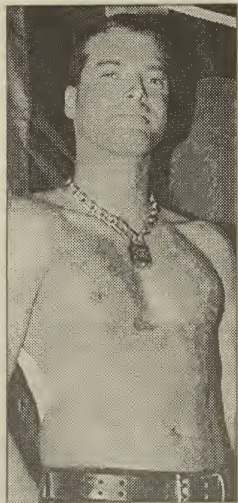
Mr. Pistons Leather of Long Beach Jay Christopher is also aspiring to the IML throne.

Ryan Goldner (both of Philadelphia), are so stunning that it will be tough for all future competition. Everyone is raving about these two. Photos to come!

Again on May 2, the Mr. Sacramento Drummer contest was held at The Bolt Bar. Lenny Broberg, Joe Gallagher, Derek Young, Tommy Dougherty, Mark Seeba and Mike Butler were the judges. When all was said and done, a bear type won the title; his name is "Ruffdawg" — no relation to Bear Dog Hoffman! I don't expect any photos from this one, but you never know about Sacramento!

Our Mr. Leather San Francisco Stephan Edwards threw the first of two scheduled fundraisers May 2 at the Powerhouse. It was the so-called "Kinky Beer Bust," and almost \$700 was raised for the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California. That cute Paul Gabriel and Walker set up some wonderful display boards of erotic images and memorabilia. The funniest part of the evening was when Keith Truitt won the raffle prize for a session at Always Tan! He donated it back.

And what's a Mr. Marcus column without some dish? (*Unusual!*) Item no. 1: The biggest local scoop is that Walt Killeen, owner of A Taste of Leather on 10th Street, signed papers last week leasing the space on Upper Market Street formerly occupied by CopyMat. ATOL is branching out, and it couldn't happen to a nicer



Mr. September 1999 on the Bare Chest Calendar Brent Cassidy. Mr. October will be chosen tonight!

guy. The new store will be opening around the end of May!

Item no. 2: You may recall that David W.W. Walker won the IMD title one year, with Ray Castro of Florida and Ed Ryder of D.C. the runners-up. IML this year should be interesting to watch. Both Castro and Ryder are in the running! Stay tuned! ▼

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this Wed, May 13



# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Eric M. Rose



Untitled, by Mel Hanson.

## Mel Hanson

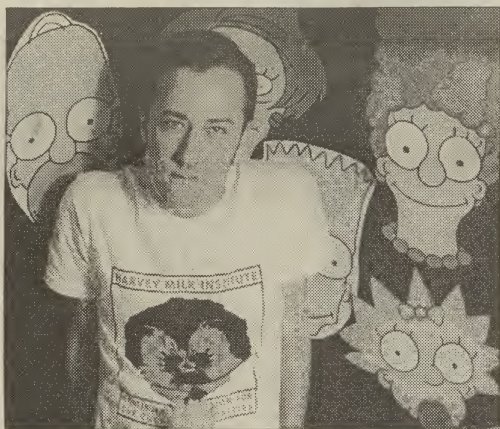
When Mel Hanson was struck and killed by an automobile in Stockton at the age of 24, his artistic legacy seemed doomed to follow him to the grave. After all, he was not a leading figure of the Beat generation, belonging to a little-known clique of painters who worked out of an old firehouse in Stockton, hence their name: The Firehaus Group. And at the time of his death, he had completed little formal training in the arts and had no direct involvement in the larger San Francisco Bohemian scene, with many of his paintings having never been displayed publicly.

But, as Belcher Studios Gallery demonstrates with their current exhibit, *Mel Hanson: Retrospective 1938-1962*, he did leave behind an impressive body of work. The exhibit — including portraits, self-portraits, collages, assemblages, and studies — doesn't just show the tragedy of a promising artistic career cut short, but also the incredible talent and wry social commentary of a young man who was passionately devoted to his work. Hanson was primarily a figurative artist, although he was also influenced by German Expressionism, Pop- and Funk-art. This eclecticism only helps to complement the quirkiness of the artist.

Hanson's portraits and cartoon studies, while often whimsical, also mask darker social commentary and astute political observations. Images of death seem almost prophetically to be lurking about his self-portraits, and his use of Disney characters, particularly his obsession with Donald Duck, are both violent and ominous. One of his seminal works "The Temptation of St. Walt Disney," captures his ambivalence toward the cartoon patriarch and the grotesque social fantasies behind his characters' violent and anarchistic behavior. The beloved Disney icons are portrayed as dark shadows posed in threatening and openly hostile behavior toward their imperiled creator.

While this exhibit is sure to spark new interest in Hanson and his paintings, there is even more immediacy to the personal encounter invited by the work. Hanson is not a "master," but a young man who had a rare artistic and creative drive that fueled his life up until his untimely death. This gives the exhibit a strange intimacy, and I left with a sense of having met the artist and having been invited into his often dark, often whimsical fantasy world. And what artist could ask for a better testament? ▼

The Mel Hanson retrospective is showing through June 1 at Belcher Studios Galleries, 69 Belcher Street. Hours are noon to 5 p.m., or by calling 255-8900 for an appointment.



Doh! The Simpsons at the Harvey Milk Institute. See Saturday.

## Eri

### Brave

Art Street Theatre's play created and performed by Jordon Flato, Mark Jackson, Lisa Maher, more. \$10-\$15. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 5/30. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 751-5922.

### Don't Get Up

A Musical History of the Opera Queen, Sean Owens' new play. \$16-\$20. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 5/9. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 437-2349.

### Duty Free

David Mills' solo show; with video by Please Louis. \$12. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30 pm, Sun. at 8pm; thru 5/31. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

### Ellery Eskelin

NYC jazz improv musician performs with Andrea Parkins & Jim Black. \$8. 8pm. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

### Gary Hill

Multimedia installation using video, strobe, text, sound. Thru 6/20. Reception tonight at 6pm. Capp Street Project, 525 2nd St. 495-7101.

### Goddess on a Payroll

Comedy by Monica Grant: parody of everything from prison to Xena, Warrior Princess. \$10-\$25. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 5/16. MCC, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

### Herstory of Porn

Solo performance by Annie Sprinkle. \$15-\$20. Wed.-Fri. at 8pm; Sat. at 8pm & 10pm; thru 5/16. Bayfront Theatre, Bldg. B, Ft. Mason. 392-4400.

### Iphigenia and Other Daughters

Mettle Theatre presents "a dysfunctional family drama of mythic proportions" by Ellen McLaughlin. \$10-\$12. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 5/30. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 289-2000.

### Intervista & ROG

Video by Fifth Floor and dance-theatre by Torque: exploring power and social ritual. \$9-\$14. Thur.-Sun. at 8pm; thru 5/17. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-3311.

### Ka-Boing

Run For Your Life...it's a dance co. presents performance collaboration between dancers and animators. \$12.50-\$16.50. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm; thru 5/10. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

### The Last Tea

Jennifer Kagan and Michael Rafferty's performance based on stories of Dorothy Parker. \$10. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 5/16. Shotwell Studios, 3252a 19th St. 431-3637.

### Late Night Live

Comedy showcase with David Mills and Bridget Schwartz; "Freaky Fetish

Show," with guests Leah Garchick, Dean Goodwin, Steve Schalchlin. \$8. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th. 861-7933.

### Mel Hanson

Retrospective, 1938-1962. Exhibit of paintings and assemblages. 12pm-5pm, Thur.-Sun; thru 6/1. Belcher Studios Gallery, 69 Belcher. 255-8900.

### Men's Self Defense

Class taught by Gary Moro. \$25. 10:30am. 3372 20th St. Call 821-1902 to register.

### My Night With Reg

Kevin Elyot's comedy: haunting tales of gay love and desire. \$10-\$20. Wed.-Sat. thru 5/16. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

### Nesting Dolls

Modern dance performance by Cid Pearlman's dance co.; original music by Jonathan Segel. \$12-\$14. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 5/9. ODC, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

### The Rainbow Room

Musical about life, liberty and the pursuit of fabulousness by Rick Knight. \$12-\$15. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 5/16. Trinity Episcopal Church, Bush and Gough. 210-0089.

### Riding From Normal

Mark Kenward's solo adventure. \$8-\$16. Thur.-Sat. at 8:30pm; thru 5/9. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

### SFMOMA

Keith Haring Retrospective; thru 9/8. Sargent Johnson: African-American Modernist; thru 7/7. Steve McQueen: Four Projected Images video installation; thru 5/12. \$8. Fri.-Tues., 11am-6pm; Thur., 11am-9pm. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

### Up Jumped Springtime

AFROBLUESOULPOWER presents play adapted by Colman Domingo from *Brother to Brother*. \$12-\$21. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3pm & 7pm; thru 6/6. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

### URL

Urban Renewal Laboratory multimedia exhibit: exploration of urban environment by 16 artists. Thru 6/20. Reception tonight at 6pm. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

### Voyagers

Chamber opera & dance by the Snopea Chamber Ensemble. \$10. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 5/16. DanceMission Theatre, 3316 24th St. 558-8724.

## Sat

### The Abstract View

Exhibit of work by Fran R. Lewis with 30 percent of sales donated to AIDS charities. Thru 7/9. Reception tonight at 4pm. Derek Silva Commu-

nity, Lobby, 1549 Market St.

### Alternative Therapies

Free educational program by ATEN & HHC Health on hypnotherapy, Ayurvedic medicine, homeopathy, more. 1pm. Davies Medical Center, Gazebo Room, Castro & Duboce. 284-6237.

### Deranged Durang

Four one act plays by Christopher Durang. \$5-\$7. Sat. at midnight, Sun. at 5pm; thru 5/10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

### Dragstrip

3rd annual SF Drag King Contest benefiting PAWS: Elvis Herselvis, Lori Naslund, Blue Period, more. \$10. 8pm-2am. DNA Lounge, 375 11th St. 331-9595 ext. 300.

### Fiesta de Mayo

Potluck dinner for Spanish-speaking gays. 7pm in Oakland. Call (415) 863-7087 for info.

### Flash Family

SF improv troupe celebrates 20th anniversary with 100% spontaneous theater, comedy, and song. \$12. 8:30pm Sat.; thru 5/9. Blue Bear Hall, Ft. Mason, Bldg. D. 885-5678 ext. 2.

### Lavender Seniors

Monthly potluck for gays and lesbians 55 and over. Noon. San Leandro Comm. Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro.

### Michelangelo Signorile

Reads from *Life Outside*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

### Mother's Day Concert

Russian & American song, dance performance. 2pm. Russian Center, 2450 Sutter. (510) 525-7950.

### Mural Awareness Fest

Live music, 1998 Mural Awards presentation. Free. 1:30pm-5:30pm. Precita Park at Folsom. 285-2287.

### Orchidmania

World's largest orchid sale: thousands of bargain-priced orchids for AIDS benefit. Free. 10am-5pm thru Sun. Breakfast preview sale today at 8:30am for \$15. Ft. Mason Center Firehouse. 841-1678.

### Portrait Party

Portraits done by renowned fine art photographers, incl. Christine Alicino, Leon Borenstein, Julian Okwu, more. \$350. Thru Sun. SF Camerawork, 115 Natoma. Call 764-1001 for reservation.

### Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Scott Silverman, Liz White, Cindy Hagely. \$10. 10pm. Josie's, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

### The Simpsons:

"Queerness in the Simpsons," Harvey Milk Inst. cartoon workshop taught by Kevin Schaub. \$25. Noon. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. Call 552-7200 to register.

### Stayin' Alive!

Dinner, cocktails, music, live & silent auction benefit for Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center. \$75-\$125. 6:30pm. Fisherman's Wharf Longshoremen's Hall, 400 Northpoint. 421-6443 ext. 12.

### Tom Paasonen

AlRspace presents solo surrealist dance play *Recycles, Time and Lives of Poika*. \$5-\$10. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

### Vaishali

Performs *Take a Walk on the Wilde Side*, a journey into the life and times of Oscar Wilde. \$45-\$50. 1pm. Ft. Mason Center, Rm. C205. 337-7777.

## Sun

### 50/50

Israeli Art From Bay Area Collections: Retrospective of Israeli art. \$5. Sun.-Wed., 11am-5pm; Thurs., 11am-8pm. Thru 7/26. The Jewish Mus'm, 121 Stuart. 543-8880 ext. 220.

### California Composers

"Here and Now," season finale by SF Chamber Singers. \$16. 7pm. War Memorial Veterans Bldg, Green Room, 401 Van Ness. 771-3352.

### Dia de las Madres

Concert of folk-inspired choral work from Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil. \$15.





Drag kings Luigi Pescatore, Mario & Vinnie Testosterone, Hans Ubereasy, and Buster the Boxer dickin' around at Dragstrip. See Sunday.

5pm. St. Gregory Nyssen Church, 500 DeHaro.

### Lavender Community Mother's Day

Celebration honoring biological and "significant" mothers hosted by Lavender Pages. Live entertainment, drawing wall, more. 3pm-7pm. Eureka Valley Rec. Park, 19th St. & Collingwood. 864-4446.

### Manny Hall

Reads from *Lesbian Love Companion*. Free. 3:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

### Mexican Bus Mural Tour

Three hour tour of city murals in 1940's Mexico City transit bus. \$30. 12:30pm & 1pm. Also, 11am bicycle tour for \$10. Call 285-22987 for reservations, locations.

### The Mother of All Breakfasts

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Mitcho, & LGBTQ Youth pancake breakfast benefit for LGBTQ Youth programs. \$5-\$7. 10am-12pm. Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood. 552-0220.

### Our Roots

"Family, Culture, Community." GAPA Mother's Day gen'l meeting and dinner outing for Asian and Pacific Islander gay men. 6pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 282-GAPA.

### P-FLAG

Monthly meeting featuring panel discussion by transgender families. 2pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church. 921-8850.

### Songs from Mama's Table

Linda Tillery & the Cultural Heritage Choir, KITKA Women's Vocal Ensemble perform Balkan, Slavic, African-American music. \$17-\$25. 7pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 454-5238.

## Mon

### Around the World

The Bay Brass performs music from US, England, Germany, Austria, more. \$20. 7:30pm. St. Dominic's Church, Steiner & Bush. (510) 527-6362.

### Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC Karen Ripley, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

### Havana Panorama

Photo exhibit by Rick Gerharter. Exhibit thru 5/31. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

### Jacqueline Berger

Reads from *Mythologies of Danger*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

### Michael Ondaatje

Author of *The English Patient* speaks with C.D. Wright. \$16. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

## Tues

### Boadecia's Books

Single Lesbian & BI Prospective Moms parenting group meeting for networking, support, info. Free. 7pm. Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa Ave, North Berkeley. (510) 559-9184.

### Comedy Computer Convention

Hostess Bun E. Rabbit, live performance by Ian Shoales, J. Raul Brody, "live" internet appearance, more. \$10. 8pm. Slim's, 333 11th St.

### Gross Indecency:

"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moisés Kaufman's play. Tues.-Sun., thru 5/24. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

### HIFY Social

Health Initiatives for Youth social for HIV-positive youth ages 26 and under. 4pm. The Chat House, 139A 8th St. 487-5777.

### Merlin Holland

Reads from *The Wilde Album*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

### Open Mic Music

Weekly showcase for singers, musicians, dancers; hosted by Retts, the original fashion dyke. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

### Scouting for All

Tom Ammiano & P-FLAG host fundraiser for Scouting for All Founder Steven Cozza. Donations at door. 5:30pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 864-0738.

### Teatro Sabor

Latina ensemble political comedy. \$10.50-\$12.50. 8pm. Noh Space at Project Artaud, 2840 Mariposa. 621-7797.

## Wed

### Eric Rofes

Reads from *Dry Bones Breathe: Gay Men Creating Post-AIDS Identities and Cultures*. Free. 8pm. MCC, 150 Eureka.

### Intimacy & Depression

"The Silent Epidemic," discussion of intimacy/sexual issues by castmembers of *Party of Five*, Drew Pinsky, more. \$5. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

### The Last Session

Steve Schachtlin's musical: an HIV+ songwriter plans his final recording session. \$10. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 6pm; thru 5/17. Dinner-theatre Fri.-Sat. at 6pm for \$28. Josie's, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

### Pilot 26

Choreography by Andrea Anderson, Tiffany Rhynard, Pippa Frame, Ann Yee, more. \$8-\$12. 8pm. ODC, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

### Ylem Forum

Multi-Multi Media: work by Barbara Lee, Kristyan Panzika, & Robert Kendall. Free. 7:30pm. Exploritorium McBean Theater, 3601 Lyon St.

## Thur

### The Baltimore Waltz

Play by Paula Vogel: siblings must come to terms with AIDS while traveling Europe. \$12-\$15. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 6/6. Hotel Monaco, 501 Geary. 437-5527.

### The Blue Angel

SMUIN Ballets/SF spring season, incl. *Carmina Burana*, *Cyano*, more. \$30-\$35. Thru 5/17. Call for program, times; tonight at 7:30pm. Yerba Buena Center, 700 Howard. 978-2877.

### Eleven House Party

New house music party DJed by the fabulous Ellen Ferrato. \$5. 10pm-2am every Thur. Eleven, 374 11th St. 431-3337.

### Enrique

Performs new rock musical *Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls*: a romp thru the seamy side of the rock music business. \$10. 9pm Thurs. Extended thru 6/25. Transmission Theatre, 314 11th St. 861-6906.

### Leaders for Choice

Planned Parenthood Golden Gate's gala dinner: guest speaker Faye Wattleton, cocktail reception, awards. \$150. 6:30pm. Ritz-Carlton, 600 Stockton. (650) 574-5823.

### Lesbian Artist/Activist

LVA's interactive salon featuring Hima B., Nancy Lemoins, and L. Frank Manriquez; bring slides & videos (10 min.) of your own activist art. \$5-\$25. 7pm. SF State Downtown Center, 425 Market, Rm. 2608.

### Nancy Reiko Kato

Radical Women presents socialist feminist's review of *Dragon Ladies: Asian American Feminists Breathe Fire*. Incl. Asian buffet. \$6.50. 6:30pm. New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission. 864-1278.

### One of the Boys

"Stories from the Midwest," solo work by John McGivern. \$15+\$2 drink min. Fridays at 10:30pm; thru 7/31. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 931-9707.

### Pearl Diving

Purple Moon Dance Project's new dance work. \$12.50-\$18.50. 8pm thru Sun. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

### Richard Rodriguez

Essayist and commentator speaks. \$16. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

### Sponge: m2

Hybrid performance/walk-thru/concert in computer environment. \$7-\$10. Thur.-Sat; admission on the half-hour from 8pm-10pm. Thru 5/30. LAB, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

### We Are Transsexuals...

"And We Are Your Neighbors," lecture by Alice Barnes. Free. 7:30pm. Trinity Episcopal Church, 1668 Bush. Call 775-1117 for reservation.

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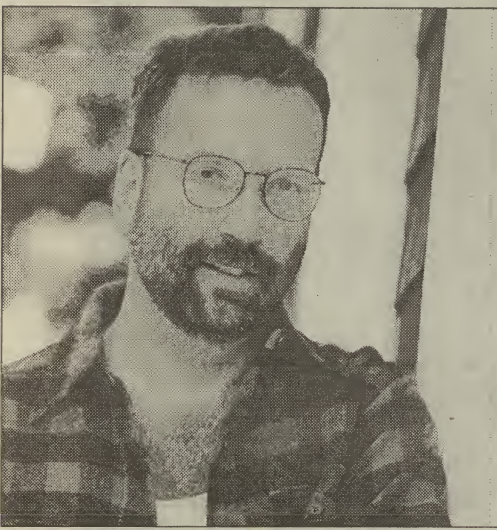
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# 'Dry Bones Breathe,' 'Opposite Sex' Pushing buttons with Eric Rofes



Eric Rofes

by Timothy Pfaff

Eric Rofes is well aware that the subtitle of his new book, *Dry Bones Breathe: Gay Men Creating Post-AIDS Identities and Cultures* (Haworth Press, \$24.95) will press some hot buttons. In what sense is present-day gay culture "post-AIDS?"

The 43-year-old self-defined community organizer is keenly aware that AIDS is still with us, but his intention in his new book is to look at the changes in gay culture since his last book, the 1996 *Reviving the Tribe: Regenerating Gay Men's Sexuality and Culture in the Ongoing Epidemic*, written before what he calls, with some irony, "the protease moment." A two-year book tour that brought him in contact with gay men in 36 cities, and a pivotal experience at the Vancouver AIDS conference two years ago, prompted some deep rethinking. The news in Vancouver was

the new combination therapies, but what gave Rofes' thinking a new framework was a paper by Australian sociologist Gary Dowsett, who talked about "the post-AIDS experience" in his country. "He used the term courageously," Rofes says, "defining it not as the end of AIDS but as adaptations to life after the crisis stage of the epidemic had passed." The idea matched Rofes' own experience of "the shifts in our relationship to AIDS from no longer having to attend a dozen funerals a season, read two or three pages of obituaries a week, and have the constant din of AIDS in our ears."

Rofes will receive his Ph.D. from the UC Berkeley School of Education the week of the book party for *Dry Bones Breathe*, which explains the sometimes scholarly tone of his analysis of "the culture," as well as the scrupulousness of his citations. But the book's unblinking look at familiar phenomena, from the Castro coffeehouse culture to cir-

cuit parties, is sure to engage its readers. "I try to make my books useful," Rofes says, "and I try to be honest about situating myself in the text."

On the usefulness front, Rofes advocates changes in AIDS-prevention organizations, in which he himself has been deeply involved, most controversially as the former Executive Director of Shanti Project. Now he suggests moving "away from the narrow view of gay men as vectors of HIV, or victims of HIV. I think organizations that are going to be useful to gay men over the next few years will be the ones that broadly define us as human beings and see our health in a much more diverse and integrated way."

## Room for sex pigs

What's more likely to fuel debate is Rofes' look at gay sexual subcultures. Throughout the book he recommends "conceiving of the gay community as a big tent. We can have different patterns of sexual behavior and keep them within the tent of gay male culture. Monogamous gay male couples and sex pigs can both be under the tent. As someone who lives in what could be called the sex-pig part of that equation, I've been very concerned over the last three years with the marginalization of gay men who do not construct their sex lives in monogamous ways." In his investigation of the circuit-party culture, "the subculture most demonized and scapegoated," he finds "men who care about their friends, and love their friends."

"I think the vastly underexamined piece of gay culture is the friendship network," Rofes says. What does it mean for those of us who, even if we do have a lover, don't organize our lives around a traditional dyad, a coupled home, and family values? I'm interested in those alternatives to what we've seen as mainstream culture."

"We got through the '80s on social networks like AIDS support groups and 12-step programs. As those networks have transformed themselves, we see the emergence of cultures with ties to commercial establishments. While I have mixed feelings about that, I have to say that I find more meaning in the social networks I find at my gym and the coffeehouse I go to every day than in nonprofit organizations and gay bars. To a remarkable degree, coffeehouses have created cultural spaces for men to be with each other. There's a big piece of gay men that's the men, not the gay."

"When I look at my heterosexual peers, the other Jewish men in their 40s I grew up with, I see how hungry they are for friendship. Then when I look at my gay male friends, we're on a totally different level qualitatively. Gay men are not perfect, but we are the vanguard. That's what kills me about the attacks on gay men, especially by other gay men, over the last few years. To depict us as narrow, egotistical, dick-oriented, muscleboy, drugged-out basket cases does a great disservice to the cultures we are creating."

"I would argue that the reason the heterosexual world isn't freaked out by what's happening with the President is that we increasingly understand that people — including heterosexual people — organize their sex lives in com-

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### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

**Treatment of Anemia in Zidovudine-Treated HIV-Infected Patients**  
PROCRIT is indicated for the treatment of anemia related to therapy with zidovudine in HIV-infected patients. PROCRIT is indicated to elevate or maintain the red blood cell levels (as manifested by the hematocrit or hemoglobin determinations) and to decrease the need for transfusions in these patients. PROCRIT is not indicated for the treatment of anemia in HIV-infected patients due to other factors such as iron or folate deficiencies, hemolysis or gastrointestinal bleeding, which should be managed appropriately.

PROCRIT at a dose of 100 Units/kg three times per week is effective in decreasing the transfusion requirements and increasing the red blood cell level of anemic, HIV-infected patients treated with zidovudine, when the endogenous serum level of erythropoietin is  $\leq 500$  mU/mL, and when patients are receiving a dose of zidovudine  $\leq 4$  mg/kg/day.

Responsiveness to PROCRIT therapy may be blunted by concurrent infectious/inflammatory episodes and by an increase in zidovudine dosage. Consequently, the dose of PROCRIT must be titrated based on these factors to maintain the desired erythropoietic response.

### Treatment of Anemia in Cancer Patients on Chemotherapy

PROCRIT is indicated for the treatment of anemia in patients with non-malignant malignancies where anemia is due to the effect of concomitantly administered chemotherapy. PROCRIT is indicated to decrease the need for transfusions in patients who will be receiving concomitant chemotherapy for a minimum of 2 months. PROCRIT is not indicated for the treatment of anemia in cancer patients due to other factors such as iron or folate deficiencies, hemolysis or gastrointestinal bleeding which should be managed appropriately.

Available evidence suggests that patients with lymphoid and solid cancers respond equivalently to PROCRIT therapy, and that patients with or without tumor infiltration of the bone marrow respond equivalently to PROCRIT therapy.

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

PROCRIT is contraindicated in patients with:

- 1) Uncontrolled hypertension.
- 2) Known hypersensitivity to mammalian cell-derived products.
- 3) Known hypersensitivity to Albumin (Human).

### WARNINGS

**Pediatric Use:**  
The multipeptide preserved formulation contains benzyl alcohol. Benzyl alcohol has been reported to be associated with an increased incidence of neurological and other complications in premature infants which are sometimes fatal. The safety and effectiveness of EPOetin alfa in children have not been established.

### Thrombotic Events and Increased Mortality:

In a randomized, prospective trial of 1265 hemodialysis patients with clinically evident cardiac disease (ischemic heart disease or congestive heart failure), an increased mortality was observed in those patients randomized to a target hematocrit of 42% as compared to those patients targeted to remain at a hematocrit of 30%. The reason for increased mortality observed in these studies is unknown; however, the incidence of non-fatal myocardial infarction (3.1% vs. 2.3%), vascular access thrombosis (35% vs. 29%), and all other thrombotic events (22% vs. 18%) were also higher in the group randomized to achieve a hematocrit of 42%. Increased mortality was observed in a randomized placebo-controlled study of PROCRIT in patients who did not have chronic renal failure who were undergoing coronary artery bypass surgery (7 deaths in 126 patients randomized to PROCRIT vs. no deaths among 56 patients receiving placebo). Four of these deaths occurred during the period of study drug administration and all four deaths were associated with thrombotic events. While the extent of the population affected is unknown, in patients at risk for thrombosis, the anticipated benefits of PROCRIT treatment should be weighed against the potential for increased risks associated with therapy.

**Zidovudine-Treated HIV-Infected Patients**  
PROCRIT therapy has not been linked to exacerbation of hypertension, seizures, and thrombotic events in HIV-infected patients.

### PRECAUTIONS

The parenteral administration of any biologic product should be attended by appropriate precautions in case allergic or other untoward reactions occur (see "CONTRAINDICATIONS"). In clinical trials, while transient

rashes were occasionally observed concurrently with PROCRIT therapy, no serious allergic or anaphylactic reactions were reported. See "ADVERSE REACTIONS" for more information regarding allergic reactions.

The safety and efficacy of PROCRIT therapy have not been established in patients with a known history of a seizure disorder or underlying hematologic disease (e.g., sickle cell anemia, myelodysplastic syndromes, or hypercoagulable disorders).

In some female patients, menses have resumed following PROCRIT therapy; the possibility of pregnancy should be discussed and the need for contraception evaluated.

**Hematology:** Exacerbation of porphyria has been observed rarely in patients with CRF treated with PROCRIT. Nevertheless, PROCRIT should be used with caution in patients with known porphyria.

In preclinical studies in dogs and rats, but not in monkeys, PROCRIT therapy was associated with subclinical bone marrow fibrosis. Bone marrow fibrosis is a known complication of CRF in humans and may be related to secondary hyperparathyroidism or unknown factors.

In zidovudine-treated HIV-infected and cancer patients, hematocrit should be measured once a week until stabilized and periodically thereafter.

**Delayed or Diminished Response:** If the patient fails to respond to or maintain a response to doses within the recommended dosing range, the following etiologies should be considered and evaluated:

- 1) Iron deficiency. Virtually all patients will eventually require supplemental iron therapy (see "Iron Evaluation").
- 2) Underlying infectious, inflammatory, or malignant processes.
- 3) Occult blood loss.
- 4) Underlying hematologic diseases (i.e., thalassemia refractory anemia, or other myelodysplastic disorder).
- 5) Vitamin deficiencies: folic acid or vitamin B12.
- 6) Hemolysis.
- 7) Aluminum intoxication.
- 8) Osteitis fibrosa cystica.

**Iron Evaluation:** During PROCRIT therapy, absolute functional iron deficiency may develop. Functional iron deficiency, with normal ferritin levels but low transferrin saturation, is presumably due to the inability to mobilize iron stores rapidly enough to support increased erythropoiesis. Transferrin saturation should be at least 20% and ferritin should be at least 100 ng/mL.

Prior to and during PROCRIT therapy, the patient's iron status, including transferrin saturation (serum iron divided by iron binding capacity) and serum ferritin, should be evaluated. Virtually all patients will eventually require supplemental iron to increase or maintain transferrin saturation to levels which will adequately support erythropoiesis stimulated by PROCRIT.

**Drug Interactions:** No evidence of interaction of PROCRIT with other drugs was observed in the course of clinical trials.

**Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility:** Carcinogenic potential of PROCRIT has not been evaluated. PROCRIT does not induce bacterial gene mutation (Ames Test), chromosomal aberrations in mammalian cells, micronuclei in mice, or gene mutation at the Hprt locus. In female rats treated intravenously with PROCRIT, there was a trend for slightly increased fetal wastage at doses of 100 and 500 Units/kg.

**Pregnancy Category C:** There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. PROCRIT should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

In studies in female rats, there were decreases in body weight gain, delays in appearance of abdominal hair, delayed eyelid opening, delayed ossification, and decreases in the number of caudal vertebrae in the F1 fetuses of the 500 Units/kg group. In female rats treated intravenously with PROCRIT, there was a trend for slightly increased fetal wastage at doses of 100 and 500 Units/kg. PROCRIT has not shown any adverse effect at doses as high as 500 Units/kg in pregnant rabbits (from day 6 to 18 of gestation).

**Nursing Mothers:** Postnatal observations of the live offspring (F1 generation) of female rats treated with PROCRIT during gestation and lactation revealed no effect of PROCRIT at doses of up to 500 Units/kg. There were, however, decreases in body weight gain, delays in appearance of abdominal hair, eyelid opening, and decreases in the number of caudal vertebrae in the F1 fetuses of the 500 Units/kg group. There were no effects related to PROCRIT on the F2 generation fetuses.

It is not known whether PROCRIT is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when PROCRIT is administered to a nursing woman.

**Pediatric Use:** The safety and effectiveness of PROCRIT in children have not been established (see "WARNINGS").

### Zidovudine-Treated HIV-Infected Patients:

**Hypertension:** Exacerbation of hypertension has not been observed in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients treated with PROCRIT. However, PROCRIT should be withheld in these patients if pre-existing hypertension is uncontrolled, and should not be started until blood pressure is controlled. In double-blind studies, a single seizure has been experienced by a patient treated with PROCRIT.

### Cancer Patients on Chemotherapy

**Hypertension:** Hypertension, associated with a significant increase in hematocrit, has been noted rarely in cancer patients treated with PROCRIT. Nevertheless, blood pressure in patients treated with PROCRIT should be monitored carefully, particularly in patients with an underlying history of hypertension or cardiovascular disease.

**Seizures:** In double-blind, placebo-controlled trials, 3.2% of patients treated with PROCRIT and 2.9% of placebo-treated patients had seizures. Seizures in 1.6% of patients treated with PROCRIT occurred in the context of a significant increase in blood pressure and hematocrit baseline values. However, both patient groups treated with PROCRIT also had underlying CNS pathology which may have been related to seizure activity.

**Thrombotic events:** In double-blind, placebo-controlled trials, 3.2% of patients treated with PROCRIT and 11.8% of placebo-treated patients had thrombotic events (e.g., pulmonary embolism, cerebrovascular accident). Growth Factor Potential: PROCRIT is a growth factor that primarily stimulates red blood cell production. However, the possibility that PROCRIT can act as a growth factor for any tumor type, particularly myeloid malignancies, cannot be excluded.

### ADVERSE REACTIONS

#### Zidovudine-Treated HIV-Infected Patients

Adverse events reported in clinical trials with PROCRIT in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients were consistent with the progression of HIV infection in double-blind, placebo-controlled studies of three months duration involving approximately 300 zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients. Adverse events with an incidence of  $>10\%$  in either patients treated with PROCRIT or placebo-treated patients were:

Event	Patients Treated with PROCRIT (N=144)	PLACEBO-Treated Patients (N=153)
Event	38%	29%
Fatigue	25%	31%
Headache	19%	14%
Cough	18%	14%
Diarrhea	16%	18%
Rash	16%	8%
Congestion, Respiratory	15%	10%
Nausea	15%	12%
Shortness of Breath	14%	13%
Asthma	11%	14%
Skin Reaction (Administration Site)	10%	7%
Dizziness	9%	10%

There were no statistically significant differences between treatment groups in the incidence of the above events.

In the 297 patients studied, PROCRIT was not associated with significant increases in opportunistic infections or mortality. In 71 patients from this group treated with PROCRIT at 150 Units/kg (T.I.W.), serum p24 antigen levels did not appear to increase. Preliminary data showed no enhancement of HIV replication in infected cell lines in vitro.

Peripheral white blood cell and platelet counts are unchanged following PROCRIT therapy.

**Allergic Reactions:** Two zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients had urticarial reactions within 48 hours of their first exposure to study medication. One patient was treated with PROCRIT and one was treated with placebo (PROCRIT vehicle alone). Both patients had positive immediate skin tests against their study medication with a negative saline control. The basis for this apparent hypersensitivity to components of the PROCRIT formulation is unknown, but may be related to HIV-induced immunosuppression or prior exposure to blood products.

**Seizures:** In double-blind and open-label trials of PROCRIT in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients, ten patients have experienced seizures. In general, these seizures appear to be related to underlying pathology such as meningitis or cerebral neoplasms, not PROCRIT therapy.

### Cancer Patients on Chemotherapy

Adverse experiences reported in clinical trials with PROCRIT in cancer patients were consistent with the underlying disease state. In double-blind, placebo-controlled studies of up to 3-months duration involving 131 cancer patients, adverse events with an incidence  $>10\%$  in either patients treated with PROCRIT or placebo-treated patients were as indicated below.

Percent of Patients Reporting Event	Patients Treated with PROCRIT (N=63)	PLACEBO-Treated Patients (N=68)
Event	29%	19%
Fatigue	29%	7%
Diarrhea	21%	17%
Nausea	17%	32%
Vomiting	17%	15%
Edema	17%	1%
Asthma	13%	16%
Fatigue	13%	15%
Shortness of Breath	13%	9%
Parosmia	11%	6%
Upper Respiratory Infection	11%	4%
Dizziness	5%	12%
Trunk Pain	3%	16%
a p = 0.041 b p = 0.069 c p = 0.0015 d p = 0.017		

Although some statistically significant differences between patients treated with PROCRIT and placebo-treated patients were noted, the overall safety profile of PROCRIT appeared to be consistent with the disease process of advanced cancer. During double-blind and subsequent open-label therapy in which patients (N=72) were treated for up to 32 weeks with doses as high as 927 Units/kg, the adverse experience profile of PROCRIT was consistent with the progression of advanced cancer.

Based on comparable survival data and on the percentage of patients treated with PROCRIT and placebo-treated patients who discontinued therapy due to death, disease progression or adverse experiences (22% and 13%, respectively, p=0.25), the clinical outcome in patients treated with PROCRIT and placebo-treated patients appeared to be similar. Available data from animal tumor models and measurement of proliferation of solid tumor cells from clinical biopsy specimens in response to PROCRIT does not indicate tumor growth. Nevertheless, as a growth factor, the possibility that PROCRIT may potentiate growth of some tumors, particularly myeloid tumors, cannot be excluded.

The mean peripheral white blood cell count was unchanged following PROCRIT therapy compared to the corresponding value in the placebo-treated group.

### OVERDOSAGE

The maximum amount of PROCRIT that can be safely administered in single or multiple doses has not been determined. Doses of up to 1,500 Units/kg (T.I.W.) for three to four weeks have been administered without any direct toxic effects of PROCRIT itself. Therapy with PROCRIT can result in polycythemia if the hematocrit is not carefully monitored and the dose appropriately adjusted. If the suggested target range is exceeded, PROCRIT may be temporarily withheld until the hematocrit returns to the suggested target range. PROCRIT therapy may then be resumed using a lower dose (see "DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION"). If polycythemia of concern, phlebotomy may be indicated to decrease the hematocrit.

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## INTERVIEW

## Stephen Fry

◀ Arts cover

"Like slouching!" he agrees. "Exactly that. And putting your arms across [your chest] to sort of give a horizontal to break up the vertical. And so on. These are psychological things, that have been quite well covered, I think. It's much easier to be dopedly confident if you're tall. Tall people are saying, 'Oh, I'm so stupid,' whereas short people are saying—"

Here we are interrupted by a (relatively) short person in a uniform, who doesn't seem aggressive, but has kindly come to look at the leaking chandelier over the mini-bar. He gets it right in the eye before retiring upstairs in search of the source.

When we're settled in again, Fry asks in the tone of a nephew, "Do you mind if I smoke?" When I encourage him, he asks, "Do you do it yourself?" I admit to having quit.

"Clever thing," he flatters. "Mind you, it's much easier to give it up in California, where you're sort of forced to almost, aren't you?"

## Labor of love

Moving on to more substantive matters, Fry educates me about the late Richard Ellmann, on whose 1984 biography *Wilde* was based. "His last work, which was his labor of love, is the definitive biography, for our age, anyway," he says. "People were astonished that he chose Wilde—in the academic community, which has so shamefully neglected him, in the English-speaking world, at least. Wilde is a giant, if you want to put it that way. In fact, in the last sentence of the book Ellmann uses the word giant, funnily enough. He writes, 'He comes before us now a gigantic figure, laughing and weeping, full of paradox. So wise, so kind, so right.'"

In Ellmann, Fry found a justification for not taking his clothes off. "I was very grateful because, like Oscar, I'm large, and also quite sort of flabby." Here he pats his gut, which seems voluptuous rather than ungainly. "It was a great relief to me to know that Wilde was embarrassed about his own body, in terms of nakedness in front of others. All the evidence is that he didn't like to undress in front of [the disastrous love of his life] Bosie. That pleased me just



Stephen Fry

for sheer reasons of vanity. I was glad I didn't have to reveal myself too much in front of the camera."

Fry seems perfectly happy revealing himself to me, at least psychologically. "I'm so envious of small, beautiful, elegant, nippy, darting people, who I thought [as a teenager] were agile and lithe-some and supple. And I was everything they weren't: uncoordinated and looming and clumsy. One turns inward. That's not a game I can play, the physical game. The best I can do is I can disguise it with ridiculous clothing, which I did. I had a little phase of buying ridiculous great-coats with fur on them and things like that. Also, you can concentrate on things that are absolutely not physical: wit, language. And I was hopeless at sports as well."

Here the writer of three transatlantically bestselling novels (*The Liar*, *The Hippopotamus*, and *Making History*) reveals his literary genesis: "Rather than be the sort of nerd who slunk along hugging the wall, feeling left out—I had too much pride for that. So I took the aggressive stance of trying to use my wit to counter any sense of inadequacy. That, allied to being aware that I was also gay, of course—Wilde became a huge hero in one's life, anyway."

## Going down?

As it's already past lunchtime, Fry invites me to join him downstairs at Scala. At the elevator, he gets into a car which is going up and has to be coaxed out of it. When we're in the elevator going down, he hurtles off as soon as the doors open, only to be told it's the wrong floor. In short, he's giving a brilliant demonstration of what it means to him to be tall.

The restaurant is a high-

ceilinged echo-chamber full of garrulous gastronomes. With chivalrous comprehension, Fry immediately pops my tape-recorder into the breast pocket of his long-sleeve shirt, ensuring an intelligible recording. What ensues over carpaccio and cannelloni is Fry's take on Oscar's brilliance as a Hellenist (or Greek scholar), a linguist, and a soul capable of the extremes of joy (*The Importance of Being Earnest*) and suffering (*De Profundis*). Director Brian Gilbert later joins us for a glass of pinot noir and an impressive analysis of the crisis of late Victorian England, for which Wilde was a kind of sacrificial lamb.

Fry takes up the theme of Empire, whose hypocritical cult of clean and healthy living was ground into him at school. "The enemy of health was the pale young man who doubted these things," says Fry, "who wasn't playing the game. Wilde was supremely unhealthy. He was a pathogen. I think people recognized he was a pathogen and that he could infect the world."

With any luck, Fry's full-bodied homage will start an epidemic. ▼

## DANCE

## Dollface



Choreographer and Artistic Director Cid Pearlman and her company *Nesting Dolls* premiere the first installment of their punk-rock fable *The Adventures of BeBe Undergrround* with original, live rock 'n' roll music by Jonathan Segel, performed by L.A. band the Container. Performances this weekend, Thurs.-Sat. May 7-9 at 8 p.m., at ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street. Tickets are \$12-14. Call 863-9834. ▼

## Eric Rofes

◀ page 54

plicated ways. It's not the 1950s anymore. As Michael Bronksy points out, straight culture and social patterns in the '90s very much resemble gay ones—just as some gay people are alleging we're not like that anymore. I find that very ironic."

## 'Opposite' attracts

Rofes is surprised and delighted that there is already a strong interest in *Opposite Sex* (New York University Press, \$16.95), a collection of essays he edited with activist and author Sara Miles, a regular contributor to *Out* magazine. The outgrowth of years of Gay and Lesbian Task Force workshops called Creating Changes, the collection includes essays by lesbians on gay male sex and gay men on lesbian sex, and two transcribed conversations on the topics by three lesbians and three gay men.

"For the conversations, we worked hard to find the right three lesbians to talk about dick, and the right three men to talk about cunt," Rofes says. "We were clear that this was not going to be a book about

the lesbian and gay family and how much we all loved each other; it's about body parts, fluids, and specific sex acts, and how we view and feel about them. I even have a piece about what I call the Ick Factor, which I had hoped more men would write about."

"I think we're striking a nerve at an important time. Just six months ago, Larry Kramer asked lesbians to attack gay men about their sex practices, and the lesbian response was: hold it, what we think is more complicated than that. What this book addresses is the guts of sex, as well as the power issues that divide us—and bring us back together again." ▼

A reading and publication party for *Dry Bones Breathe*, sponsored by A Different Light bookstore, will take place Wednesday, May 13 at 8 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street. A free, day-long conference on *Opposite Sex*, co-hosted by the editors and the Revs. Jim Mitulski and Penny Nixon, will take place at MCC on Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For information, call 863-4434.

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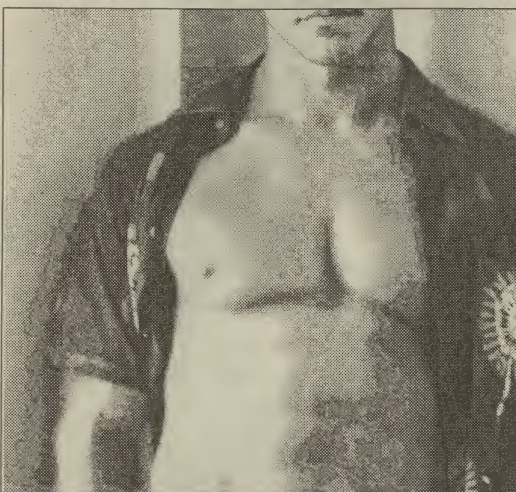


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### PARTING GLANCES

**Rainbow Grocery check-out 4/5**  
You: Light skinned Bk guy, beautiful eyes, w/White sweatshirt in check-out. Me: Latin/Asian guy w/Green sweatshirt and blue cap. Spoke briefly. You drove away in green Honda. Coffee? ☎ 2000

**Tim at World Gym 4/14**  
We met in the Hot Room. Would like to have dinner with you. Patrick, the Asian guy. ☎ 2001

**ISO: Brian .H**  
Last saw you April 3rd. You caught my heart & hard-on. Please contact me ASAP. Would like to take you out on a date. P's call soon! ☎ 2002

**Blow Buddies and you used t-shirt 2/8**  
Unfortunately I saw and responded to your ad after your mailbox had closed. That handsome thing sure sounds familiar. Dinner is definitely a go. ☎ 2003

**Latin explosion 4/10 Luckey cap & jeans dancing.** Lets exchange hat for a French Beau-ray. Black and white photos. ☎ 3000

**Harveys Sat 4/11 8 pm**  
You: Great smile, leather jacket, carrying video. Me: Asian at table with friends. We smiled. Wanted to say hi but you left too soon. Wanna meet for coffee? ☎ 3001

**Steamworks Jan 31st**  
You: hunky Asian (go). Me: caucasian, goatee, blind/blu. Would love to pick-up where we left off. Forgot to get your number. ☎ 3002

**450 Castro-Good Friday**  
We met in elevator, coming from appointments around 3:00. You had on brown cowboy boots; chatted about your upcoming foot surgery. Like to share more than an elevator ride? Please call. ☎ 3003

**Metro 4/10/98**  
You: long sleeve white t-shirt, mustache, very attractive with 3 friends. Me: green shirt, beard with 1 friend. Kipling looking one to talk would like to. ☎ 3004

**Richard T of 510**  
You: MGR. of furniture store, sexy bad features; I tried to call you back, but lost your number. You came by 3/17 at 8:30. Call me: Michael Quintal. ☎ 3005

**Blue Miata 03/01 Responds!!!!!!**  
Saw your car but it was too late. I am the one in express line Silveray Mt. St. Would like to meet. Please Call ASAP!! ☎ 3006

**Russel 3/21 PowerHouse W/B**  
Party-I told you, you were a Bart. I was looking for. I meant it, me white haired Daddy. ☎ 3007

**Mar 21st PowerHouse W/B party**  
Vince I'm Oak I'm in Marin W/O attitude how about my place not My Place. ☎ 3008

**Steam Wrks Easter Sun Noon**  
Ron you came to my V room first, later more fun with you in room 217. Let's do it again! ☎ 2100

**Vincent @ Alfreds Steak House**  
We were celebrating your friends new citizenship. We exchanged names, and many wonderful glances. I can get your smile out of my mind. Make my dreams come true. Please call. ☎ 2200

**David of Oakland**  
Had a great time with you @ Blow Buddies, and then again in the East Bay. Would like to see you again. Call Chris. ☎ 2101

**Castro Theater 4/11 you passed**  
by me as I was standing in line for the animation festival. You: blue polo shirt, mustache, jeans. Me: Cap, Syracuse Univ. sweatshirt. We spoke when you walked by the 2nd time. Let's meet! ☎ 2102

**GAM W/glases at My Place 4/18**  
Made eye contact and exchanged smiles between 1 and 2 am Me: GWM w/beard. Was with my partner. We both found you attractive. Interested in a 3-way get together. ☎ 2103

**Kitty glamour where are you?**  
My heart is breaking. I broke up with boyfriend to be with you. Please call me. I need you in my life. ☎ 2104

**Parke at TD'S**  
You came in on 4-13-98, 8:40 Sat near pool table. You asked if I was a pool shark. We talked. You had a job interview I asked for your number. ☎ 2106

**Mark from M.D.T.V**  
We walked passed each other on Bush St. 4/15/98 @ 8:00pm. I said, I like your show. Coffee? ☎ 2106

**Union Square Garage**  
April 13th (mon) 10am. You were fixing the lights on level 3. We looked at each other. I smiled. Too shy to talk. Love to hear from you. ☎ 2107

**Short, studly & handsome**  
Sunday 4/19, Walgreens on Castro. Double take, triple take. You:Khakis and sweater. Me Orange shirt, beard. You went up 18th I came back to say hello, you were gone ☎ 2201

**Buffalo Exchange/21 11:30 Teus**  
You: Chinese, spiked hair w/goatee, very sexy. Wearing striped-T, jeans & red Cella. Me: Napa boy, goatee, silver glasses, t-Blu shorts. Walked out but you drove away. P's call. ☎ 2202

**Handsome Japanese maure male**  
Man, passed me at Japanese Festival Sunday on Buchanan. We gazed the look of possible long love. Being shy, I walked away. Yet wanting. ☎ 2203

**19th St. Bart-SF April 20 2:30-3**  
You-stripped shirt, wire rim glasses, short dark hair/beard, olive complexion, with pack exchanging glances with me-tall, thin dark hair/beard, cap, boots. Want to talk? ☎ 2204

**San Gregorio 4/26**  
You-blond with big cock ring. You were leaving. I winked, you smiled. Please call for more smiles. ☎ 2205

**Kyle call home**  
Gave you a lift from Walgreens early AM Monday 4/13 in my truck. Wound up at my place, want more of a sound. Jerry 960 C. ☎ 2206

**Tin Pan 4/26 2pm**  
You: dark hair, green Boston T-shirt, eating alone. Me: w/friend. I asked if you were from Boston. Your cute. Let's talk. ☎ 2207

**Palomino 4/14/98**  
You-tall thin, smiled at me a few times while I was using cell phone. Went outside but was too shy to talk. Would love to get to know you. Call. ☎ 2208

### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**GAM ISO GWM for LTR**  
Smooth, quiet and attractive Koren Gay (6',160#), ISO White male for companionship, friendship and possible LTR. ☎ 2004

**Chicano has no luck**  
I'm 5'7", 160, muscular, student. I'm not too picky but I always met unemotional, workaholic, needy or club crazy guys. If you are not an extremist, respond. N/S. ☎ 2005

**I survived where are you?**  
Youthful 40, spiritual, handsome, bottomcut Southerner, HIV- ready to conquer the world with the right man. ISO or Soulmate. Take me I'm yours! ☎ 2006

**My perfect mate**  
GWM, greatlooking, great body, HIV-, early 30s. Successful, grounded, self-actualized, athletic, adventurous, romantic. Seeks same. ☎ 2007

**Attractive Latino**  
Goodlooking Latino 32 yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37 yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 2008

**Outdoors Man**  
WM, 33yrs, HIV+, 5'10", 170#. Attractive, healthy, mind body & spirit. Beaches, hiking, tennis, looking for Black, Latino, White male, top, masculine, sincere, healthy 25-35. Fun. ☎ 2009

**Where is Daddy's Boy**  
Dat: 5'4yo, 6', 188#, very fit, goatee, balding, uninhibited, versatile, playful. You: Very fit, likes to please, Lewis, loyal and if chemistry is right, share life. 8LK, Latin A+ ☎ 2011

**Big dick/muscle build**  
Got your attention? Black guy, tan, 35, beard, HIV-, open to possibilities. More than just sex-Hell, I can do that by myself! ☎ 2012

**I'm seeking younger sexy man**  
For ongoing romantic-sexual times. I am 74,5'8",170# and you are under 40 and prefers a mature man both in and out of bed. Open to LTR. ☎ 2023

**Go with love**  
I believe in partners for everything: adventure, friendship and romance. GM seeks male for partner. Me: Tall slim, late 30s. You: Slim, late 30s. You're nobody until somebody loves you. ☎ 2014

**Comfortable shoes**  
I'm a good-looking masculine 60 GWM, 5'9", 158#, grey hair, have traveled extensively, and I'm a happy person. 5 years ago I lost my lover and I finally feel ready to be with a man for sex (I'm a top) companionship, movies, theater, opera, ballet and dining out. Give me a call and let's see if the shoe fits! ☎ 2015

**Sometimes silly!**  
GWM,45,6'10#, trim/toned, brn(receding)/H2le, healthy HIV+, funloving, irreverent, affectionate,independent, sexually adventurous (verab/httm). Likes film, theatre, ballet, football, golf (go figure!) ISO secure GWM 35-48, inshape to share some/all of above. Richard. ☎ 2016

**GBM, Professional.**  
40s,5'11",190#,Oakland. Enjoy theater, dining, movies and cuddling. HIV+. Good health. ISO GWM 35-45yrs, similar interest. Friendship/LTR. ☎ 2017

**The search is over-E. Bay**  
Handsome 28yo GWM in the E. Bay looking for love. I'm 6'2", blondish, brown, 185, gbm, toned. Seeking loving, honest, sweet, HIV+ mated for LTR. Be under 35, slender & sweet. ☎ 2018

**Attr GWM Beartype nudist SF**  
39, 6'2", 240# and losing, wants GW/Ital/LatM in SF 35-45, slim, medium or natural build, dating, poss LTR. Movies, music, kiss, talk, cuddle, play, sex too. Pref NS/Ndrg, serious only please. ☎ 2019

**Black & White in color**  
Trustworthy GWM with design for living seeks loving Black male for intimate romance and passion. Me: tall, muscular, handsome, open. Prefer outgoing romantic, fit and muscular. ☎ 2020

**Tall goodlooking guy ISO mate**  
Me: Hard, lanky body, Fan loving, smart, Bohemian. Mostly top. You: slim build, serious, clever mind, real. Know how to love and be loved in return. ☎ 2021

**Where are you? Oakland area?**  
Black male 51, 5'9", 170, in shape HIV-, seeks a quality, masculine looking White male 36-70 for physical, emotional involvement. ☎ 2022

**Aggressive Black men**  
I wish to service Black men for LTR. GWM needs to use his deep throat to suck men for hours. I'm insatiable-cum many times. I'm yours. ☎ 2023

**My regular cocksucking service**  
Is what you may want to book once you shoot your first extra big load, maximized by my deep throat techniques. Twice weekly! OK 3 times! ☎ 3009

**It's not your nice hard dick**  
Any size OK (uncut with cheese A+) but your gigantic load that keeps me going back down for more. 450 Sutter says "Keeping sucking it's the best there is!" ☎ 3010

**Tired of the games!**  
Quality GAM, 38, 5'8", 140#, professional, clean shaven seeks other quality men for dating & possibly LTR. Pls. be honest & sincere. ☎ 3011

**Insatiable bottom seeks tops**  
FIVAM 46yo bottom looks 30s, 5'9", 160#, LL smoker non drinker. Seeks tops 8 1/2 +. I'm handsome, love good smoke. Drug/disease free. Tight ass deep throat. ☎ 3012

**East Bay Latino ISO Black Male**  
34, 5'9", 155, attractive, healthy, youthful, smooth face/body. You: masculine, good shape 27-45, appreciates honesty, kindness, nature, for friendship or possible LTR. ☎ 3013

**Daddy knows best!**  
5'8", 165#, Nordic top man seeks Mediterranean bottom to service 8" dick! br/ HIV+, deferential attitude preferred. ☎ 3014

**5'6, 130#, wants bigger hairy man**  
Young-looking & feeling 48yo GWM seeks romance w/GWM in 30s-40s. Me: metaphysical yet practical but wanting spontaneity. You: patient & aggressive yet gentle. Both of us: willing to teach & learn. ☎ 3015

**Handsome,hunky,loving,fun**  
Quality,GWM wants passionate relationship and possible LTR. I'm 6'2", 190# 40s, 45", 15", 32", very muscular, rugged handsome Italian. I'm soulful, loyal, sincere, exclusive, professional, healthy as a horse. HIV+ non progressor. I'm sexually charged from puppy to leather. Looking for similar 35-45yo GWM, who is grounded, successful, secure, who has experienced and wants a grade A relationship, full of mental, emotional exploration with new limits. A man to look me in the heart, die for my body, and live for my soul. Prefer facial hair. Serious only. Please call. ☎ 3016

**If you want you can have**  
130# 40s, 45", 15", 32", 40s, looking for LTR with experienced WM bottom who's physically and emotionally available as I am and desires a monogamous union. Pls. be 45-55, clean shaven and under 6', med heavy set OK. ☎ 3017

**GAM seeks GWM lets share fun**  
On a reg basis and more. You GWM HIV-, N/S, ND, stable. Enjoy life, HT/WT proportionate. Versatile & slim A+ ☎ 3018

**Hot, older brother wants to suck**  
Stip brothers & uncles uncut cocks with 8" + any color while you whatch porno. I'm 38, tattoos, buzzcut, 190#, HIV-, tall, hung 8" cut, & love showing off. ☎ 3019

**Seeks attractive Asian male.**  
VEL GWM, 24, German/AM, blonde hair like you, 5'11", ISO/working student, new to SF athletic into swimming, gym, backpacking, personality, friendly, spontaneous, seeks friendship maybe more. Knob Hill. ☎ 3020

**ISO nice guy top**  
Attractive GWM, 45, 5'7", 150, HIV-, good shape looking for masculine, similar size man, sense of humor, sometimes dominant. 40s. ☎ 3021

**HIV+ BLK male seeks partner**  
Friend. Handsome, 6', 220#, healthy mind/body & soul. Love's the outdoor, camping, cooking & kite flying. You: honest, adventurous, 30-50, any race. Love travel, energetic! ☎ 3022

**Sometime this Year?**  
Goodlooking 26, White/Italian 6'1", 160#, Br/br, athletic, work out. Straight acting, fun-loving and honest. ISO, Latin or dark hair under 30. Good cook and honest for friends and maybe more. ☎ 3023

**Looking for good times**  
Shy loner, GWM, 5'7", 5'10", 150#. Seeking HIV-, friends 50 and under. Enjoy giving blow jobs. No reciprocation necessary. Black or Latin A+. Having someone watch A+. ☎ 3024

**Seeking HIV+ Eastbay Top**  
Black, Brown or deeply tan with moustache preferred. HIV+ bottom, 36, 6', 185, gbm, moustached, smoker, wants to kickback and snuggle by fireplace.LTR with local Capricorn or Virgo. ☎ 3025

**Tired of the flakiness?**  
GWM, 34, toned, tan, HIV+. Professional, ISO someone honest, patient, good communicator, disciplined, for LTR. I love animals, outdoors, cooking, movies. I want to give you more than honest friendship and great sex. I want to give you my heart! ☎ 3026

**Warm heart, hot body!**  
Attractive masculine clean-cut Asian, 35, 5'9", 173#, seeks smooth well-built man 25-40 yo for fun/relationship. ☎ 2218

**Clark Kent Adman from New York**  
Romantic, versatile top, GWM, 39, look 31, 6'1", 172#, Br/br drug/smoke free, hugging on hilltops, hiking, piano Bars, Discos, erotic massage, cooking, trust, partnership, life with mission-passion-purpose. ☎ 3027

**HIV+ GWM 30s**  
5'11", 170#, looking for White/Asian/Latin companion, near or under 30. N/D, N/A. ☎ 3028

**GWM 31 seeks romance**  
Ital/German, 5'9", 155#, fit masc. bottom. Enjoys camp art and dining out. ISO GW/Lat men, 30-40 yrs old. With sense of humor and adventure for fun and romance. ☎ 2108

**Forever true love**  
GAM, 31, 5'11", 140#. Looking for a true love. Don't expect too much, just show me the real you - GWM, 31-45, normal shape, looking, occupation. ☎ 2109

**I want a Latino**  
35, 6'1", 162#, Blonde, Blue, Good looking, nice body, HIV-, mostly bottom, not into bars ISO stable, masculine, nice looking, good body, HIV- of good character. NS, ND. ☎ 2110

**Attractive Latino**  
Good looking Latino 32 yo, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37 yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 2111

**ISO Latin Fever**  
I'm looking for someone 18-28, 9's or more, with a swimmers build, for fun hot times, make LTR. Im 33, 5'6", brn/vrnm, 160#. ☎ 2112

**Asian/Am bottom seeks top's**  
Me: 5'9", 160#, br/br cleanshaven HIV-, It smoker non-drinker SF Bay Area seeks 8+ tops for LTR. I'm an insatiable bottom looking for same in a top sincere only please. ☎ 2113

**Scrumptious!**  
Very energetic, unique, SGVWM (P), 6', 170#s, energetic, multi-talented, sincere, dedicated. Into: nature, photography, domestic. Seeks SGWM, 26-44yo, good-looking, self-assured, fun, dark-hair/eyes + 1 Dating: goal LTR. ☎ 2114

**Retired GWM seeks companion**  
Retired GWM, 57", seeks similar (Asian +) for fun, frolic and 1 enjoy movies, sex, drives and quiet evenings. N/D, NS. Prefer SF or Monterey. ☎ 2115

**Dad here**  
Hear this ad. Expert dad, GWM, 50, peak health, emolkeing death, worldly-wise, dedicated. Offer total experience. Son: 18-40, any race be ready for challenge and growth. ☎ 2116

**Let's be real**  
GWM, 30yrs, 5'7", slender long dark hair LKG for GWM 30-40 clean cut good looking-enjoys fun movies, TV bars, smoking. Let's forget the health care. ☎ 2117

**Asian seeking professional man**  
GAM, 50, financially secure, HWP, NS, ND. Enjoys travel, the arts, restaurants. Seeking mature, healthy, quality man for friendship LTR. Prefer educated. ☎ 2118

**Share a bed**  
In nice Russian Hill apartment with attractive, adventurous, masculine guy. Rent negotiable to right guy under 30 with no bones, slender, hung, and fun. ☎ 2119

**Asian and lonely?**  
If so, maybe we will end each others loneliness. I'm GWM, 6', 185#, br/nt, loving, kind, honest, affectionate. ISO slim smooth, cleanshaven, Asian guy for loving relationship. ☎ 2209

**Sensitive, loving, caring**  
Prof, WM, 55, 5'11", 185#, ISO Bk male, E. Bay, under 40, to share candle-light dinners, walks on the beach, sunsets and, passionate lovemaking. 8e adventurous and spontaneous. ☎ 2211

**Debutant Bear ND FF,TT, & FRA**  
Need ongoing spiritual revelation W/Levi/Leather HIV+, versatile top. GWM/GWM ND dildos, TT, FF and FRA. Me: GWM, 6'1", 205 #, sh. S/P hair & goatee. Meet a soulmate. ☎ 2212

**Connections sought**  
New to SF. 40 yo GWM, clean-cut, attractive, outgoing, stable. Enjoy dining in/out, movies, theatre, travel, books, etc. Looking to meet like people for companionship and social connections only. ☎ 2213

**Masculine WM seeks BM for**  
Relationship. I'm, 6', 180, br/br, goatee, HIV+, loves sports, camping & travel. Serious inquiries only. ☎ 2214

**Big loads or big dicks?**  
The experienced cocksucker knows that big dicks are a dime a dozen, but when you can suck a big load out of a smaller dick that's cocksucking!! ☎ 2215

**This insatiable cum addict**  
got that way because when your cocks been sucked the way I suck it you shoot spurts after spurts of hot load from the very depths of your balls! ☎ 2216

**Send me an Angel**  
I'm tired of losers. 21yo long haired E. Bay sweets seeks LTR with nice guy. I am 5'10", 180#, br/br, HIV+. Be under 31, intelligent and articulate. ☎ 2217

### SEEKING ADVENTURE

**Foreskin service**  
W/M 45 hairy, hung and hungry for uncut stud with big veiny foreskin dick, unload on my face love that foreskin, I'm in Sonoma County. ☎ 1822

**Wanted: Big Hairy Firm Butt**  
Well built aggressive top, hung big, needs well built WM (20s-30s) with big firm hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 1920

**Ready willing and able bottom**  
Seeks hung like a horse top. GWM 38, goodlooking fit, into hiking, movies, dining out, clean shaven. Seek top with similar intr. 35-43. Non smokers HIV- only. ☎ 2024

**Struggle for top cum**  
GWM, 5'10", 170, 51, very furry chest, in shape, HIV-, will take on aggressive men. Wrestling, boxing, fantasy scenes. Loser needs to worship body of winner. ☎ 2025

**Got Dick?**  
BM looking for male wanting oral service at your place. Help me get the practice I need. BM, Hispanic, European, Middle Eastern A++ ☎ 2026

**Goodlooking BLK, M38, 5'11"**  
190#. Top looking for two other men of mass. stocky Latino & Bk guy for some hot group action, 30-45 for long hot sessions and a little romance. A great kisser A++ must. No couples. ☎ 2027

**Aggressive top seeks**  
Young Asian bottom. Dominant cauc. 5'10", 170#, 39yo, strong arms & legs, hairy chest, thick 8" cock wants homdog Asian slut boy. Under 35, smooth with hungry butt & mouth for hot fuck sessions. ☎ 2028

**Passive, Hermano?**  
Alameda/Oakland area top men seeks a masculine, Hispanic bottom who can take 9 behind. Major pluses: over 40 dark hair, moustache, olive skin. ☎ 2029

**Meet Swiss bottom**  
GWM, 34, HIV-, 5'7", 180#, bl/bl, goatee, hairy chest, unc, bottom only, recently moved to SF, seeks handsome, nice, masculine tops for fun times and casual dating. ☎ 2030

**ISO older 40+ GM**  
Seeking older 40+ hung uncut mature GWM/GWM in San Jose area for some fun or maybe more. Me: muscular, 40,5'6", w/lat 9" cock, L/S/D E-mail Qbot@hotmail.com ☎ 2031

**ISO BLK tops in E. Bay**  
GLM 30, HIV- bottom, handsome with good body. ISO top BLK man into taking control of this hot bottom. You should be 30-50 goodlooking & very masculine. ☎ 2032

**Submissive bottom**  
ISO masc., clean cut men in good shape to service attractive WH, cleancut man, 5'9", 158#, hairy chest smooth butt, hungry mouth, deep throat at your service. ☎ 2033

**In-Fuckin-Credible mouth**  
All-American boy-next-door ISO masculine, in-shape, while dude, under 35-ville likes to just kick back. No reciprocation. The straight boys seem to appreciate me. ☎ 2034

**Bicepall!**  
Well-defined handsome b's get a noticeable rise out of me. Baseball, hard, healthy, and hung seeks another with great arms. ☎ 2035

**Window cock showoff**  
Hot exhibitionist with big dick seeks hard cocks performing stiff in windows! Naked muscle and cock stroking for a big dick audience! Nice hard cock entertaining nightly! Jack off studs! ☎ 2036

**Small or slender slight men**  
Wanted by 50 yo Masseuse who enjoys massaging skinny, slim, lean men. Free professional licensed Swedish Massage (1hr) Daytime, Haight Panhandle area. ☎ 2037

**GWM seeks Hombre**  
I am GWM 30ish, good looking, energetic, and deal guy seek to share entertainments plus sport. I love swimming, hiking, camping, rent VCR movies, bicycling, skiing, tennis, racquet, weightlifting to stay fit. I love to share laughter and good food. Please no screaming female, hairy, ND and NS. I am attracted to Homies with wolf howls. If you are reading up to this point, please call and let's see if we can go out and have a blast time! ☎ 2038

**ISO men in Marin City**  
San Rafael GWM, 5'2", 115#, HIV-, 56yo. Very tight hairy & tiny ass. Needs your cock to suck and fuck me good. Safe, sane I'm very discreet & have talented mouth, age open. Your place or mine, like drink & smoke or aroma, OK. All answered, be sincere. ☎ 2039

**Take orders will**  
You: strip kneel, suck, get it doggy-style. I cum on your face. Me: 40, fit, hung 8+. You: 21-35, fit, white. ☎ 2041

**Fuck me on my belly**  
Hungry big white asshole wants to give it up to serious marathon assfucking studs any age/race. Me: 46, 185#, 5'10", stocky, shaved head/beard. ☎ 2040

**Naked slave wanted**  
Sex top/personal assistant sought-to clean, cook, garden--ongoing basis. Gladly offer up both ends to service tall, lean, sexy Sir (44k Caucasian). 8e: 30s, cute, good shape, in SF. NS/ND. Will train. ☎ 2139



**Yngr small cock 4 oral play**  
Seek any younger guy, slim build, cut/clean, boyish, massage, oral/mutual, size, studliness not imp. WM, 33, brn/blu, lean, masculine, tall, med, sixer, easygoing. # 3046

**My one and only reason to suck**  
You off is to elicit my reward, the gibber the better: your hot creamy fresh from the factory load. Bet you'll ask me back. I'll come if you cum! # 3029

**Why your cum beats Caviar 4 me**  
Spurts fresh, hot, direct from your balls. Superior human protein (top of food chain!) Transfers emphasis from size of dick to size of load. Reg service good 4 us both! # 3030

**Butt alerts alert!**  
Looking for GWM into mutual rimming by mature GAM. Day time preferred. Videos, smoke, aroma OK. Looks & size not important. I'm HIV-UB2. # 3031

**Horny? Kick back & feed me**  
Bottom stud, 44, 6', 180#, mustache, buzzcut, insatiable mouth, receptive "bottom" & luv to eat ass. Unlike any other. Call & get off! # 3032

**Load, pump and re-load**  
Black bottom boy 38, 5'11", 150#, goatee, W/A, service hole for you to fill, pump, load & re-fill. You want it hot, wet, creamy & ready for deep direct servicing. 1 in 1 or buddy fucks. You, serious H/T/W prop. & ready to fuck! # 3033

**Gut-punching**  
Musc. GWM, seeks musc. defined guy, any race, 25-45, who gets off having his abs worked over, respecting limits, safe and sane. Smooth body a + but not required. # 3034

**Seeking flogging playmate**  
Seeking playmate who enjoys administering flogging and bondage with role playing. I'm athletic, lean, and 45. # 3035

**Hard body needs Big Bad rider**  
50 yo trim hard body: defined muscle, wants to get fucked and or suck dick/W/S 5'11", 170#, solid. HIV +. Call me. # 3036

**Masculine cock sucker here**  
Handsome GWM, looking for masculine dude who needs constant service, likes to fuck. Fill me up. # 3037

**Swiss bottom new in town!**  
Swiss GWM, 34yo, b/blu, goatee, uncult, hairiest, HIV-, straight-acting, professional seeks handsome masculine tops for discreet encounters. # 3038

**Gulp it down real deep**  
WM 40s, HIV-, very masculine goodshape dominant verbal seeks very submissive HIV-, cocksucker with obedient tongue and hungry deep throat for regular long sessions at your place in SF. # 3039

**Black on Brown: Combina Perfecto**  
Middle age, flimg Black top man seeks a mature, husky, Hispanic bottom (Oakland/Alameda area. Olive skin, mustache, dark hair are big turn-ons. # 3040

**It's about your toys**  
My hole: your hole. Toys & spanking already have lover. Me: 6'2", 185#, 7 1/2", cut, 50yrs old. HIV+ prefer 35-55 years old. # 3041

**Strictly J/O in Alameda**  
Muscle guy, w/ thick top, beefy football player ass, big balls, wanted by masculine SBM, 35, tan, muscled, beard, 8 1/2x6" dick, for long, sweaty, nasty stroke-sessions. # 3042

**Sonoma Co. cock worshipper**  
Middle-aged, attractive, healthy, generous, wants to be dominated by cute, slender guy, 18-40. Tell me what and how. I'll obey. # 3043

**Young hot versatile college guy**  
22, 145#, 5'10", good looking, 8" cut dick, cute, slim, GWM, cleanhanded. Seeks masculine guys 20-30yo, trim, versatile, good looking, athletic, in-shape, for intense passionate encounters; fucking deep throating, kissing, cuddling exploring. # 3044

**Construction workers Blown**  
and trim hung cock. Blue collar guys kick back for hot sensual blow jobs. Married men A+, great suckings! # 3045

**Black men**  
Wanted by submissive, willing to please, white bottom. Full oral/rimming/good butt fucking ETC. Prefer men 35 plus, dick size unimportant, regular servicing, LTR possible. Mature, fun loving, open. # 3047

**Horny hound**  
Youngnut in Fremont seeks purebreds and mutts in Fremont area for horsin around in the fur on all fours. Interested? I'll bow wow for you. # 3048

**Eat me, blow me, suck me, cocksuck**  
WM, tall hairy slash 7", thick cock, big balls. Nasty verbal dad kicks back for obedient masculine bottom, eat my hairy asshole, lick balls. Follow orders. Verbal abuse. Must have mustache. # 2120

**Blond top hung 8" thick**  
Wants to fill you up! I am inshape handsome hairy chest, 38 yrs, insatiable have a goatee and want active willing bottoms for fun. # 2121

**Cock slave wanted**  
I want a cock slave who will suck my dick for hours/days. Also into fucking, FF, WS, bondage, etc. Have sling, bondage bar, toys etc. Take care of my dick, I'll take care of your needs. # 2122

**A1 oral service - Delivered**  
SF GWM, HIV-m 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. # 2123

**Older healthy HIV+ bottom**  
35, hard body gym toned, 5'11", 170#, seeks top for fucking, suckin', kinky OK. # 2140

**Naked in the shower**  
Hot water and soap create a clean, refreshing sensual experience. Lean masculine WM 40 seeks another lean masculine young guy to share the ecstasy. # 2124

**Trucker wanted for US 180**  
For early morning delivery. Over-size load from big nuts hanging from husky guys especially welcome. Start your day right! Should I bring coffee and donuts? # 2125

**Marin & Nth Bay cocksucker**  
GWM 55, 115#, 5'2". Likes to suck & be fucked, especially deep throating 7" or bigger. Clean cock, 8am 118pm. My place. You 40 & older, race, look, unimportant, cut cock a +. # 2126

**Long-haired relaxed type**  
Sought by well-travelled (Asia, Asia Minor, Russia, Northern Mediterranean) trans California. If you've been around the block yourself, drop a line. # 2127

**SteamWorks Buddies**  
Dude who car would like a ride to Berkeley, will pay for gas. # 2128

**Insatiable bottom seeks tops**  
Who want to kick back as I work my magic on your man meat & get you off. Italian, 44, 6', 180#, buzzcut, mustache, handsome. Hot! # 2129

**Afternoon sex buddy wanted**  
Ass massage-erotic spanking, oral give/take, hugs & kisses too. Me: attrac, top, GWM, 48, 6'5", 250#, large stocky build. You: attrac bottom, GWM(white, asian, latin) slim, buns. # 2130

**Roughing it!**  
Masculine, submissive dude, 35, VGL, W/smooth, toned, toned bod, prefer dark, surly looking into raw sex, intense humiliation, rock hard bad attitude. # 2131

**2 hot blonds seek 3rd for??**  
1 top hung 8" 1 expert bottom, both fun and frisky, late 30s, hairy chest, goatees, very nice guys seek inshape, hung guys for stimulating sexplay. # 2132

**Searching for Irishmen**  
GM, stocky, brn/blu, 40, oral bottom, ISO men 35-50, 5'9" + who can teach me how to take it in my virgin ass. Must be patient & sensual. Hairy a +. Sincere only. # 2133

**Top & versatile fuckers**  
Wanted for group action call for info. # 2134

**Good oral service**  
Goodlooking GWM, 37, 6', 190#, with dark short hair, and blue eyes, seeks hot studs for servicing. Just lay back, whip it out and let me do the rest. # 2135

**ISO dominant leather man**  
WM, 41, 6' 168#, HIV+, healthy, submissive bottom. Handsome, musc. smooth, built, hot tits, ass, this pussy boy, sir is into leather, bondage, domination, no attitude: you in shape 30-50. # 2136

**ISO Construction; country types**  
Oral expert, masculine, GWM, deep throat, HIV-, will service masculine labor; country boys, 18-35, Sonoma County. If you need aggressive head. # 2137

**ISO River area handball expert**  
Annally centered healthy HIV-0, GWM, exp. experienced patient H8 top for weekly sessions. Well developed masculine outdoorsman appreciates a practiced hand. Mike in Marin, please call. # 2138

**Are you Asian?**  
I'm looking for an Asian man, under 35, who likes to kick back and get sucked off occasionally. Leave a message and I'll call you right back. # 2219

**Your cock my ass**  
After you've given me head and rimmed me, I'll suck your cock until it's rock hard ready to fuk me long and slow for at least an hour. Let me squeeze your big cock in my ass. After you finally cum I arouse you again and again with your cock in my ass until your worm out. Call for more info. # 2220

**Asian seeking GWM**  
Asian 30, 5'8", 130#, slender, toned, trim, smooth guy who are chubby, masculine, between 30-45 for fun, bottom preferred. # 2221

**ISO Leather SM Daddy Bear**  
6', 220#, tall topped, gny eyes, stache, & goatee leather cub looking for his strict, sadistic, romantic & caring Leather SM Daddy Bear to train and own him full time. # 2229

**Mature Dad seeks young hot son**  
For ongoing intimate sex. I'm 74, 5'7", 176#, and you are CDLKG, trim, 18-45 with a need to serve a loving but dominant Daddy. # 2222

**Boysish bottom seeks WM Top**  
Youngish WM, 30, 5'8", 145#, attractive, nice slim shapely butt, puckered anus; seeks tall, lean WM with nice crotch who likes smaller, submissive WM bottoms. Sex only, no pain/STDs. # 2223

**A little on the side**  
Masculine Italian, 42, hairy, hung, top in-shape, 37, in-shape hung, poz, GWM, a man's man, versatile, bottom, with tough deep throat. ISO hairy, masculine hung tops who can drive deep. # 2226

**Attention Sonoma submissives**  
Expert master seeks young men for Leather rituals. Be 18-35, rugged, muscular, endowed, native ethnic a +. Masculine well-developed master is healthy HIV-safe, sane, UB2. # 2227

**Cocksucking Oscars**  
Cum in the form of the big loads that speak louder than words that dicks have been well suckled. Try me. You'll shoot a lot. We'll both like that! # 2231

**Big dickd Daddy**  
56, 6', 165#, hairy & horny seeks other hot, in-shape cack. Dads & sons for sex & friendship. You be in-shape, 25-50 & hung. No kink, discipline or fifth. Just hot fun. # 2233

**Hung! Horny! Top man wanted**  
by 38yo attractive fun loving bottom. Hot Brit, ISO hung Blks., Italian/Cauc, 35-43 for good times. Enjoy music, dining out, non smokers only. # 2235

**Sex Party**  
Small group forming for parties held in my private SOMA Dungeon. Seeking other HIV+ men into hot sex! # 2236

**GWM seeks Blk or Blonde**  
GWM, 43, HIV+, Floride, brown, 160, 5'10". Looking for easygoing top for sex & friendship, possible relationship. # 2239

**Let me work yer long thick...**  
Dick in my mouth. Well-hung horny dick feeders wh'd like occasional service. Prefer Lat/WM/Blk, 30s-40s, slim/musc. I'm 46, 5'9", 135#, friendly, great cocksucker. # 2240

**Let's make a deal!**  
I suck you and then fuck your brains out. Well-endowed BM wants tight bottom for frequent get togethers at your place. Asian, Blk, His. # 2243

**GWM versatile Leather bottom**  
43, 150lbs, 5'9", short hair, must, NS, healthy HIV+ gym N2, Lthr, boots, hoods, getting fucked, eating ass, etc. Into most scenes with right fucker. Facial hair, taller, a +. # 2243

**I guess I'm a freak!**  
I want just a deep throat expert to drain my vintage BK, love 'em, then split! No beginners, indirect g's, beard/goatee's. # 2244

**LM seeks Blond/Redhead**  
LM, 38, 6', 155lbs. ISO BL/Rd, who wants to kick back while I give him slow, sensual oral service all over. Husky, hairy A+, but not nec. No leather, S&M or games. # 2245

**Bottom seeks Asian/Latino/Fist**  
White, 40s, professional, proportional. I like it slow, smooth and very deep. Squeeze my ball's watch me cum. No experience necessary. Short fingernails your place only. # 2241

**A man or a whimp!**  
GWM 35, HIV+, average looking and wellendowed. I'm looking for someone who can keep up with my Scorpio sex drive. Must be versatile and no Whimps! # 2225

**Piss sensation**  
My mouth is ready for you. My tongue will lick your piss slit and slowly bring your balls and bladder to explosive release. Under 35 yo. Same day/night callback. # 2247

**Big brother wanted**  
Gay guy 26yo N/S. Seeks well built, smooth guy for discreet fun times, married guy welcome. Non smoker no drugs. # 2230

**Bald(ing) or Skinhead studs**  
If your pate is sensual and likes attention from a handsome mature GWM, I'm your guy. 5'10", 150, hot mouth, great tooth, white hair/beard providing pleasure to the aware and adventurous. # 2237

**Cocksucker extraordinaire**  
GWM, 50 HIV-, Deep throat for 7" or better any age, race, uncult a big plus. Get expertly done. Down town location. # 2228

**Just shut-up and ride!**  
WM, 33, 5'10", 200#, bi/dlft muscles, 48", 33", 18", a hunk wants goodlooking masculine men to pump-or get pumped full of squirt. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. # 2246

**Masc. handsome, together, tall**  
Educated, mustached, fun loving, high-spirited, 37, in-shape hung, poz, GWM, a man's man, versatile, bottom, with tough deep throat. ISO hairy, masculine hung tops who can drive deep. # 2238

**Trim hung insatiable oral x-pert**  
Seeks trim, hung versatile bottoms who like getting hard then flipped over and rimmed. Smooth & young A+. # 2242

**Tall dominant older GWM**  
Seeks obedient sex slave to train. 30-50 GWM hardbodied and totally submissive. Serious only. # 2224

**Wanna Cum?**  
Are you a horny white working class male looking for very, very discreet blow-jobs? If you are sincere, a good person, easy going and honest, and masculine looking with a muscular nonfat body, (no beer belly) maybe married, straight or bisexual (not gay) and have a generous cut mansized cock, I'm here for you. Am 5'8", 140#, discreet, long hairy & mustache, x-hip, gentle, nice looking & eager to please you. # 2248

## FETISHES

**Day time Asshole eater**  
Get your asshole eaten by a pro. # 2047

**Long bearded Daddies N2 FF+ TT**  
H/M/GWM husky leathery, HIV+ like long sessions w/dicks, T,FF, Mc GBM, 6'1", 205#, sht S/P hair, mustache & goatee. Want to stretch my limitations. Kissable! # 3049

**Explosive luv/shoes & barefeet**  
Professionally successful, generous, GWM, businessman, early 40s, 5'9", 155#, fit, attractive, seeks handsome guy to share fantasies about feet and shoes as foreplay to passionate, multi-dimensional activities. # 3050

**Smokers**  
Can't in bars, but still can in my bed. Handsome, 40, GWM, 5'10", 160#, ISO Marlboro men under 50 who like to smoke before, during, and after. # 3051

**Ranch slave**  
Hungry and head, 5'10", 165, good looking masculine seeks Rim/Piss top for intense regular service. # 3052

**Pull down your pants...Stroke it!**  
I want your best, open your fly. Hard-on in your underwear? Pants dropped? Attr. GWM, 40s into J/O, W/men. With our pants & shorts pulled down. Men (30+)yo in jeans, khakis, suits, uniforms all OK. White briefs or boxers A +. # 3053

**Sneaker fetish**  
I want to provide young jocks (18-35) with new Nikes/Adidas. Let me play with them and I'll buy you the latest styles. # 3055

**Your feet my face**  
Good looking, masculine guy wants to worship your feet with my hands and mouth. Kick back while I make you and your feet feel good. Curious? All welcome, no reciprocation necessary. # 3056

**Discipline and punish**  
Physical discourse on your 35 or under, 5'10", or less tight-bodied self-black, grey/red-by my 40s, tall-booted full-leather self. Object: LTR with thinker, reader. # 2141

**Hot for your own cock and jism?**  
Big-cooked, horny dude, I like to throw my legs back and jerk a load into my throat. Hungry? Let me watch you eat your jism too. # 2142

**Nasty imaginations**  
Tops & bottoms, 18-45, into butt play, WS & extreme ranch, 1st timers, alone or group, cum play with couple, one versatile and one submissive pig bottom. # 2143

**Thick hairy legs turn us on!**  
Let's J/O while we worship your big, hairy thighs & calves. Hairy ankles a +. 2 SF guys really into it. # 2249

**Corporal punishment needed**  
GWM, 40s requires old fashioned over the knee spanking and/or paddling on the seat of my pants, underwear & bare butt (W/my pants & shorts pulled down). Discipline not S&M. Thank you sir! # 2144

**Self suckers wanted!**  
I want to watch you suck your own hard dick and shoot your cum in your mouth, maybe even fuck you while you are sucking on your hot dick. I'm a hard bodied, good looking 42 yo GWM, bald/buzz cut, goatee, hairy, uncult 6', 175#. Call me, I'll be waiting. All calls answered. # 2145

**Thirsty deep throat expert**  
Mature and submissive with a respectful attitude has a 6-pack of beer for well endowed men who will quench his thirst. # 2146

**You know your son needs it!**  
Nice & nasty insatiable son needs Dad who knows what his boy's hole is for-Hard fucking/fisting sessions. Your son 18, 5'7", 125#, bi/dlft, bearded, hairy, HIV+. Dad is verbal, kinky, demanding & bearded. # 2250

**Leather boy-cub**  
GWM, 30, 5'10", lean, furry, HIV+. Seeks taller, muscular Master/Daddy to own and enjoy his boy. Experienced in BD/SM. This boy is happy looking up at, kneeling at Sir's feet, or on his leash. Ready and waiting Sir. # 2251

**Big men, big dildoes**  
GBM 44yo, 5'11", 250lbs, hung, big tits seeks other big and hefty men into mutual dildo adventure. Discretion a must. Be big, sexy & ready. # 2252

**Muscle worship**  
WM, late 40s, seeks muscular guy of any size into flexing, being admired. Like defined biceps and hot pecs. Asians/Blacks A + 2253

**Nice guy loves barefeet**  
Lifetime ex-mechanic looking at and fantasizing about men's barefeet. Gdngk E. Bay GWM, 5'8", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet and sensual/safe all over body play. # 2254

**cigar men or admirers**  
Versatile Cigar man looking to connect with guys, at your place for smokin and strokin'?? Particularly enjoy kicking back with my stogies. Let's talk. # 2255

**Enemies**  
Spanking, roll playing for young men under 2M, late 40s, seeks masculine guy of any size into flexing, being admired. Like defined biceps and hot pecs. Asians/Blacks A + 2054

**Hungry horny handball hole**  
2 hand stretch, elbow deep, slide, piston punch pig out. ISO heavy duty strongarm toofit, slim bodied, guarantees your absolute control. Top picks welcome. Last advertisement erased, please call again. Favors provided. NHB, SMFF? Make this asshole submit. Serious action. # 2257

**4/14 Mack's, tribal latts, bottom**  
In sling, masked, remembers your superb force, your powerful topstiff energy. A one-on-one all night would be rapture. Please, please call! Carte blanche is yours. # 2258

**Seeking Pro for raw action**  
Attractive, professional, interracial, HIV+ couple seeking masculine man who likes to get it anally and orally. U B 30s-50s like us. No BS please. E. Bay, SF, Russian River. # 2056

**My pretty girl friend wants...**  
A cute young boy to torment and torture. She'll strip/bind him, spank his buttocks & sexually assault his cock & balls. I will refer! # 2057

**You Two?**  
GWM, 33, hot blond, 5'9", nice pecs, 7+. Ready for first 3 way with sexy couple. You both: 29-39, darker hair, masc, in-shape, HIV-. No scenes, respect boundaries. # 3057

**Beach wrestling!**  
6', 190#, GWM seeks buddies for beach wrestling. Friendly take downs, nobody gets hurt. U B + 20yo. Scared? I'll let ya win. # 3059

**Bare feet and shoe Fetish**  
Handsome, bearded, WM, 42, 5'8", 155#, hairy chest, 8lb/rim, looking for guys into wearing worn-out loafers barefoot, worshipping them, and engaging in sex play. # 2148

**Foot professional wanted**  
Tall GWM 50 "Father knows best" Daddy type HIV-, smoker, with size 13 EEE feet for servicing, by submissive foot boy under 45. # 2149

**Nude sunbather**  
GWM, 45, 185#, 6'2", hairy, looking for private yard or deck for nude sunbathing. # 2150

**ISO hot submissives bottom boy**  
Us: W/M/F couple- cute, fun, in shape. You bi-guy under 30, cute, well-endowed, smart, fun, in-shape. We're looking for a horny playmate - no strings attached. # 2259

**Hot guy w/tee ring seeks footbud**  
Masculine, tan, goodlooking E. Bay GWM, 5'8", 140#, hairy, cresses reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, massaging, naked body closeness, safe J/O fantasies. Light odor, toughened soles ok. Further friendship welcomed. # 2042

**Suck Buddy**  
BLK M 38, 5'11", 190#, W/a fat dick looking for a masc. oral Latino man for mutual nipple play long cocksucking session. # 2043

**Bearded blue collar Bears!**  
Bearly & husky truckers, maintenance, engineers, plumbers & electricians, HIV+ GWM/GHM N2 dildos, TT, FF, V-top, rimming. Mc: GBM, 6'1", 205#, Sht S/P hairy & mustache/goatee/beer! # 2044

**Business suit/shoe fetish**  
Handsome dad type in conservative suit, tie and shiny lace up business shoes seeks other men in suits for sex play and executive shoe service. # 2045

**Need cigar smoke bearded bear**  
Want to party w/GWM/GHM HIV+, husky & hairy 200# & up. N2 dildos, TT, FF, Levi/Leather. Mc: GBM 205#, 6'1", mustache & goatee Sht. S/P hairy GRRRR!! # 2046

**Older men**  
42yo LM, 6', 155#, moderately hairy. ISO older men who enjoy oral service, kissing & affection. Long beard, hairy, rugged looks A+. Not into gay lifestyle, games, gyms. Smokers OK. # 2048

**Thirsty? Parched?**  
Your tongue probes my piss slit, pressure builds, a golden, hot gusher erupts. Still nuzzle offers relief for talented mouths. Age, looks unimportant. Major thirst is. # 2049

**Need heavy SM contract Sadist**  
Masculine, 5'7", 160#, 41 GWM masochist needs handbodied, hardcore, unsympathetic sadist capable/equipped/experienced to administer detailed heavy pain/humiliation contract. Complete immobilization. Full from/year gang servicing/abuse. # 2050

**ISO ticklish white feet**  
GWM mid 30s, looking for 18-28yo GWM with very ticklish feet. Blonde A +. Smooth A +. Lets have some pussy. # 2051

**Masculine man-pussy in panties**  
Dirty-talk me. Foreplay me. Work me to aether. Then slip and ride my pussy to kingdom cum. # 2052

**GD/LKG Bearpig boy total bottom**  
Obedient, 40, 5'10", 235#, 5'11" hairy chest, br/hzt, bearded, insatiable. ISO all dominant, selfish, raunchy, sweetly, sloppy, out of shape, verbal tops to use me for your pleasure. S/F/E. Bay. # 2053

**Muscle worship**  
WM, late 40s, seeks muscular guy of any size into flexing, being admired. Like defined biceps and hot pecs. Asians/Blacks A + 2054

**Ebony seeks Ivory**  
Prod. educated BM (mid 30s) likes women (clean) feet. Let me caress you. Woman & fem buttocks only. South Bay preferred. SF okay. Discrete a must. # 2055

**Seeking Pro for raw action**  
Attractive, professional, interracial, HIV+ couple seeking masculine man who likes to get it anally and orally. UB 30s to 50s like us. No BS please. E. Bay SF Russian River. # 2056

**GAM ISO private Spanish tutor**  
I'm 29, 5'9", 140#s slim good looking. Seeking Spanish tutor. Preferably native speaker for my trip to Central America. Can't pay but will serve you nice dinner at my place. Kevin. # 3058

**Beach wrestling!**  
6', 190#, GWM seeks buddies for beach wrestling. Friendly take downs, nobody gets hurt. U B + 20yo. Scared? I'll let ya win. # 3059

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**Out There**

◀ page 38

glamour help to keep us alive. Thanks, Mr. Morris, we're looking forward to the dance.

**House-trained**

From the glamour of the stage to the seediness of the Capitol: In *Representative Mom*, her memoir just out from Doubleday, one-time Congresswoman, now *CBS News Saturday Morning* hostess **Susan Molinari** confirms something we have long suspected — namely, Republicans have no taste whatsoever in sex objects. In breathless authorial tones, Molinari describes the daring “Hunks of the House” calendar which presented flabby male Representatives in the flesh (though not entirely in the altogether) and tried to pass them off as drool-worthy beefcake. Molinari writes with little trace of shame, “Between late-



Representative Mom Molinari



Stafford and Jordy, by Chloe Atkins

night votes, **Ileana** [Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla.] and I had often passed the endless hours evaluating the physical attributes of our male colleagues. I'd poke her in the ribs and say, “Hey, look at that **Scott Klug**, he'd make a perfect January! Or, ‘Don't you think that [John R.] **Kasich** deserves a month of his own?’ Yeah, a month in closeted purgatory.

Molinari goes on to catalogue the carnal delights available in the corridors of power: “**Steve Largent** of Oklahoma lent the calendar a hint of sassiness with well-gelled hair [be still, our heart!] and his hands behind his [fat] head, while **Gary Condit** of California, one of the two Dems who got in on the fun, looked like a model in blue jeans and a polo shirt [provocative!]. **John Thune** shocked even Ileana with his offering, an old photo from his college days: John bare-chested flexing his arm muscles.” Wow. No wonder Representative Mom had to flee that den of iniquity for the family values of a lucrative career in network television, cashing in on her connections to the poster-boy pols.

**A pretty picture**

Talking about pin-up material, we ran into our friend **Wilder**, who's now working the desk at the Hayes Street Muscle Sisters. We would change our gyms and join up there, except they don't have a rowing machine, our favorite torture.

When we called and inquired, the **gymbot on the phone** said somewhat snippily, “No, we do not have a rowing machine!”

“That was me!” Wilder insisted. “Anyway, if you're so into a rowing machine, buy one for your home!”

We don't know why we love going for a **long row** so much, except maybe that it reminds us of our halcyon freshman days as **cockswain** for the varsity crew, shouting “Stroke!” to a team of eight strong men as we glided along the stately Schuylkyl.

But don't let us give in to nostalgic reverie. Back in the present, we were happy to see the work of

longtime SF lesbian scene photographer **Chloe Atkins** published under the Stonewall Inn imprint of St. Martin's Press. *Girls' Night Out* is a delightful compendium of portraits of women at play — including, but not limited to usual-suspect scenesters like **Elvis Herselvis**, **Fairy Butch**, **Shirley U. Gest**, **Stafford** and **Jordy**.

Published in the same Stonewall Inn pocket-book format, male nude photographer **Amos Badertscher's** take on the physical world is considerably more arty. Many of these portraits of naked boys are printed directly from the negatives, giving the artist's nude-erotic tableaux a weird, alternate-universe feel. But in one too many of these shots, the photographer himself is seen in a mirror, caught in the act of capturing the boys in the buff. Hey Amos, get out of the shot.

**Pencils ready**

By our definition, trivia is just another word for no brain cells left to lose. Which makes us happy to report that **Ed Karvoski, Jr.'s** book *What's Your Gay & Lesbian Entertainment I.Q.?* is just out from Kensington Books. The book is basically one long multiple-choice trivia quiz, with answers in the back for cheaters like us. Questions run along the lines of, “In *My Own Private Idaho* (1991), on what magazine cover does **Scott (Keanu Reeves)** appear as a model?

- (a) *Male Call*
- (b) *Joyboy*
- (c) *G-String*
- (d) *Butch*

Keanu-watchers will know that the correct skin mag is (a) *Male Call*, and that in the same **Gus Van Sant** movie, Mike (**River Phoenix**) appeared as a juicy specimen on the cover of (c) *G-String*. Whoops, we gave away the next answer. Well, we were always “sharing with our neighbors” during pop quizzes anyway.

Here's a little multiple choice quiz of our own: Which of the following statements are true?

- (a) At a party thrown by Transnashack goddess **Heklima** for her

next page ▶

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# True believers

by Deborah Peifer

*Blue Windows: A Christian Science Childhood* by Barbara Wilson; Picador-St. Martin's, \$14.

Until I read Barbara Wilson's extraordinary memoir, I knew little about Christian Science. They didn't go to doctors, I knew, and I blamed the religion for believer Colleen Dewhurst's early death from cancer. Raised in a strictly Christian Science household (her maternal grandparents were CS healers), Wilson learned to look at the world through rose windows. It was through rose-colored glass that believers saw the real world, the world of complete goodness and unlimited love. Rose windows were God's windows, she was taught. Blue win-

dows revealed moral error, sickness, loss, disfigurement — all of the false beliefs of the material world. In the rose world, there was no illness, no pain, no unhappiness allowed. To recognize those heresies was to deny God's love, as well as founder Mary Baker Eddy's peculiar metaphysics.

This world of sweetness and light was blasted apart when Wilson's mother, Ellen, in training to be a CS healer, discovered a lump in her breast. According to her own firmly held beliefs, merely to discover the lump was heresy, and to do anything about it, the rankiest disbelief. But the lump continued to grow, despite Ellen's prayers and her insistence that nothing could be wrong because God wouldn't allow it.

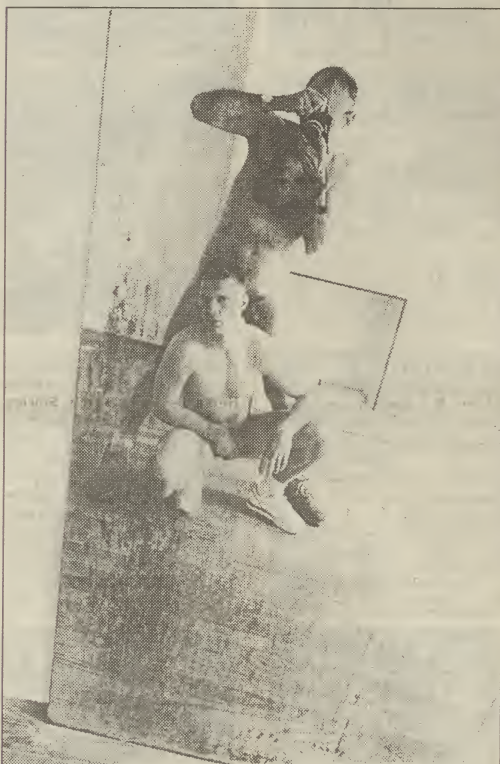
In a crisis of faith that shattered the family, Ellen descended

into madness, but as Wilson explains: "[R]eligious mystics past and present would have understood her madness as a crisis of faith. A madness induced by the belief that God no longer listened to her prayers, that God looked the other way while she suffered, that God knowingly visited pain upon her and then abandoned her to the shame of acknowledging that He would not, though He had the power, heal her of her physical and mental distress."

Desperate, and fearful for Ellen's safety, Wilson's father, who was not a Christian Scientist, brought in a CS nurse whose responsibility it was to pray for the suicidal Ellen, not, as one might have guessed, to protect her. One horrible day, he received a call from the nurse: "She called me before she called the ambulance. She said, 'Your wife has drunk Drano. What should I do?'" No small question for a true believer, who could not see the horrible damage



Wilson writes with a novelist's skill, weaving her own story with the story of her mother and the history and beliefs of Christian Science into a tapestry of extraordinary richness. She captures the bewilderment of her child self with painful accuracy. Imagine seeing your own mother, her face scarred, her tongue almost completely eaten away by acid, and being unable to comment on or react at all to the fact of her anguish. Wilson was left, after her mother's death, with no spiritual place to call home. The remainder of the memoir traces her journey toward a spiritual reconciliation, and her thoughtful discussion of various kinds of religious beliefs is fascinating. *Blue Windows* is an engrossing tale of a family and a system of beliefs. You will learn a great deal about Barbara Wilson and Christian Science when you read this book. What may surprise you is how much you will learn about yourself at the same time. ▼



Untitled, 1996, by Amos Badertscher

## Out There

◀ previous page

visiting mother, Mom got soused and was seen publicly making out with clubber Deena Davenport. Shocking, but better than last year, when someone at the same event stole Mum's purse.



Ed Karvoski, Jr.

(b) Club persona and star artist Scooter was read for filth by above Concerned Mother for cheating on his sweetie Heckles when Mom found him recreationally sucking face with some young thing — a remonstrance we find a little odd, considering (a).

(c) Chi-Chi LaRue and company are currently filming a new grind 'n' grunt flick with Cole Tucker and about twenty other porn stars on the premises of sex club Blow Buddies, and touting it as "the Titanic of gay porno films."

(d) All of the above.

(e) None of the above.

Pencils down. The answer, at least according to our usual shady sources, is of course (d). All of the above, which leads us to wonder vis-à-vis (c): Does that mean that the producers expect legions of teenage girls to swoon over their latest "discovery?" (A Gay-for-Pay, we hear. So sad, so heterosexually-impaired.) We don't think so. But we are willing to wager the Titanic tie-in means all the passengers, as well as the entire crew, are likely to go down with the ship. ▼

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# Forgotten fringe fiction

by Steven Jenkins

*The Scapegoat* by Jocelyn Brooke; Turtle Point Press/D.A.P., \$12.95

*Bertram Cope's Year* by Henry Blake Fuller; Turtle Point Press/D.A.P., 14.95

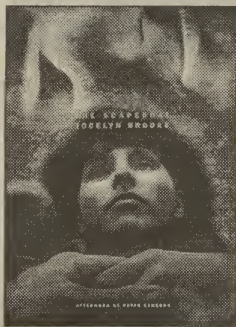
Responding to the market's ever-growing demand for queer fiction and history, savvy publishers are trotting out new editions of Wilde and Maupin, and more importantly unearthing literary treasures that have long been neglected and are ripe for rediscovery. Two such works just now receiving their overdue second chance for a readership are *Bertram Cope's Year*, a delightful 1919 novel by American social satirist Henry Blake Fuller, and *The Scapegoat*, a nightmarish tale of repressed homoeroticism written in 1948 by British scribe Jocelyn Brooke.

Upon their initial releases, both books were misunderstood, scorned, and banished to obscurity by critics and readers who were unprepared for Fuller's overt yet chaste depiction of homosexual longing, and shocked by Brooke's brutal breaking of taboos. Recontextualized within the current literary climate, however, these unusual historic curios and their little-known authors deserve attention and acclaim as risky trendsetters of modern gay fiction.

First published when Fuller was 62 and deeply ensconced within the closet, from where he pined for a series of younger men who apparently never returned his affections, *Bertram Cope's Year* is distinguished by its Jamesian social observations and its inclusion of several frankly gay male characters whose proclivities are obvious, if never acted upon. Rejected by every publisher in New York, Fuller eventually self-published his fictional debut, and was so discouraged by its indifferent reception that he burned the original manuscript and didn't write another novel for ten years. Subsequent works did little to elevate his stature above minor-league satirist, and only in recent years has Fuller been rescued from obscurity and justly appreciated as a skilled, if frustratingly cautious, chronicler of early-20th-century manners and mores.

In *Bertram Cope's Year*, Fuller refrains from what he termed "repellent sex discussions" (what would he think of Dennis Cooper's work?), preferring to illustrate his characters' sexuality through suggestive narrative details and flirtatious dialogue. Fuller's eponymous protagonist is a 25-year-old English instructor at a Midwestern university whose boyish good looks catch the eye of Basil Randolph, a dapper gentleman of fifty summers who, like Fuller throughout his own life, is doomed to unrequited love. While Bertram accepts Basil's friendship, he is far more interested in Arthur Lemoyne, his effeminate best friend whose "artistic temperament" apparently explains his swishy demeanor. Content in his shared domesticity with Arthur, Bertram staves off a host of fe-

male admirers who are confounded by his mystifying proclamations, such as, "I like to see soldiers or sailors dance in pairs, as a straightforward outlet for superfluous physical energy."



## Beyond normative

As Andrew Solomon points out in his afterword to this handsome new edition, Fuller "portrays what would now be called normative homosexuality — discreet, occasional, often unfulfilled, neither delirious nor unbearable." In contrast to Bertram's year of living less-than-dangerously, Jocelyn Brooke presents in *The Scapegoat* a sullied season of gay guilt, disgust, and terror that in no way could be called "normative."

Brooke's extremely strange first novel, which has been out-of-print for the past 50 years, concerns the sexual initiation and sacrifice of Duncan Cameron, a delicate 13-year-old orphan who is sent to live with his hunky Uncle Gerald on a gloomy farm in the remote English countryside. "Tall, massively built ... a colossus, pregnant with a dark and minatory power," Gerald is a fantasy figure straight out of Hand Jobs, given to shoving in the nude while his trembling nephew spies on him from the bathtub: "Duncan eyed nervously the white, heavily muscled body, compelled to a sort of unwilling reverence for the power latent in those massive yet agile limbs."

Eventually, Uncle Gerald's power is unleashed in several bizarre, nearly sadomasochistic scenes, the most shocking of which involves young Duncan played out naked in bed, caught in a pair of handcuffs as his uncle prepares to give him a "damned good thrashing." As Duncan "felt his terror spill over into an excruciating spasm that seemed beyond pleasure or pain," *The Scapegoat* spills over into truly subversive NAMBLA territory, though Brooke's true intent is to demonstrate the severe physical and emotional dangers of repressed homosexuality.

With its hot-and-bothered incest storyline, purple prose ("the very air was tainted with an appalling yet fascinating corruption"), loaded symbolism (a soldier with a bleeding-heart tattoo between his nipples), and cautionary moral, *The Scapegoat* stands as a singular achievement in the history of gay fiction. Turtle Point Press is to be commended for resurrecting both this novel and *Bertram Cope's Year* for new generations of readers. ▼

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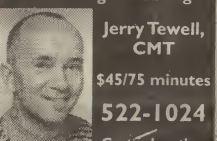
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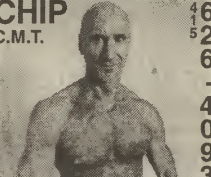
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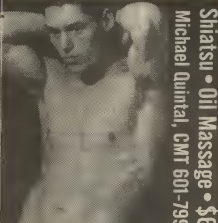
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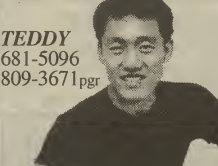
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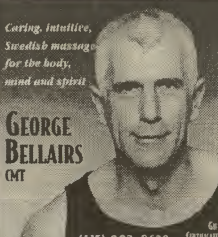
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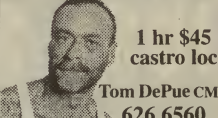
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Marin Studio  
Outcalls Available  
**CHAD**  
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NON-SEXUAL



**Therapeutic Massage**

1 hr \$45  
castro loc  
**Tom DePue CMT**  
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**RELAXING SWEDISH/SHIATSU**  
**\$30 SPRING SPECIAL!!**  
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**MY HANDS=PLEASURE**  
Full body Swedish massage by a very  
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Goodlooking 24 yo jock blond/blue  
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Big strong muscular E Bay man  
Gives very sensual, very erotic  
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A superb massage by a gorgeous CMT  
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Bearded Friendly Naked Sexy and  
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Healing moves through my hands to you,  
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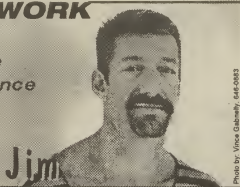


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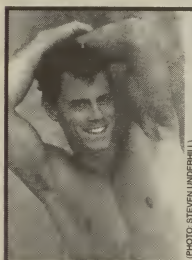


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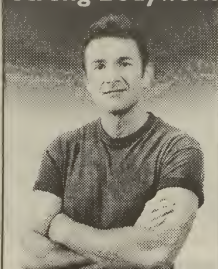
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(a young jock with strong hands)  
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Combining deep tissue, cross  
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Friendly guy Great Mass \$45 387-9451  
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Personalized Swedish sensual  
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stimulating yet relaxing,  
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20  
5'6"  
120 pd

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Downtown deep or soft with  
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## MASSAGE


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• 5 yrs exp  
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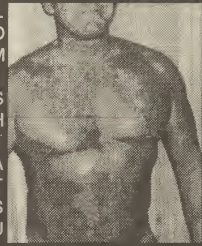
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Sensual




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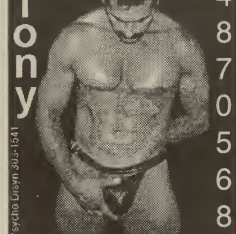
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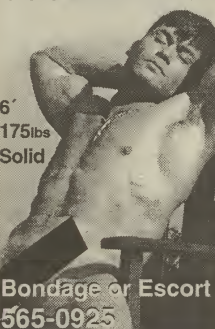
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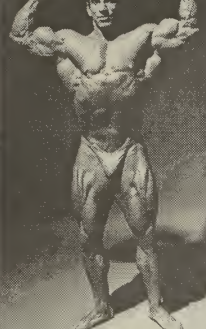
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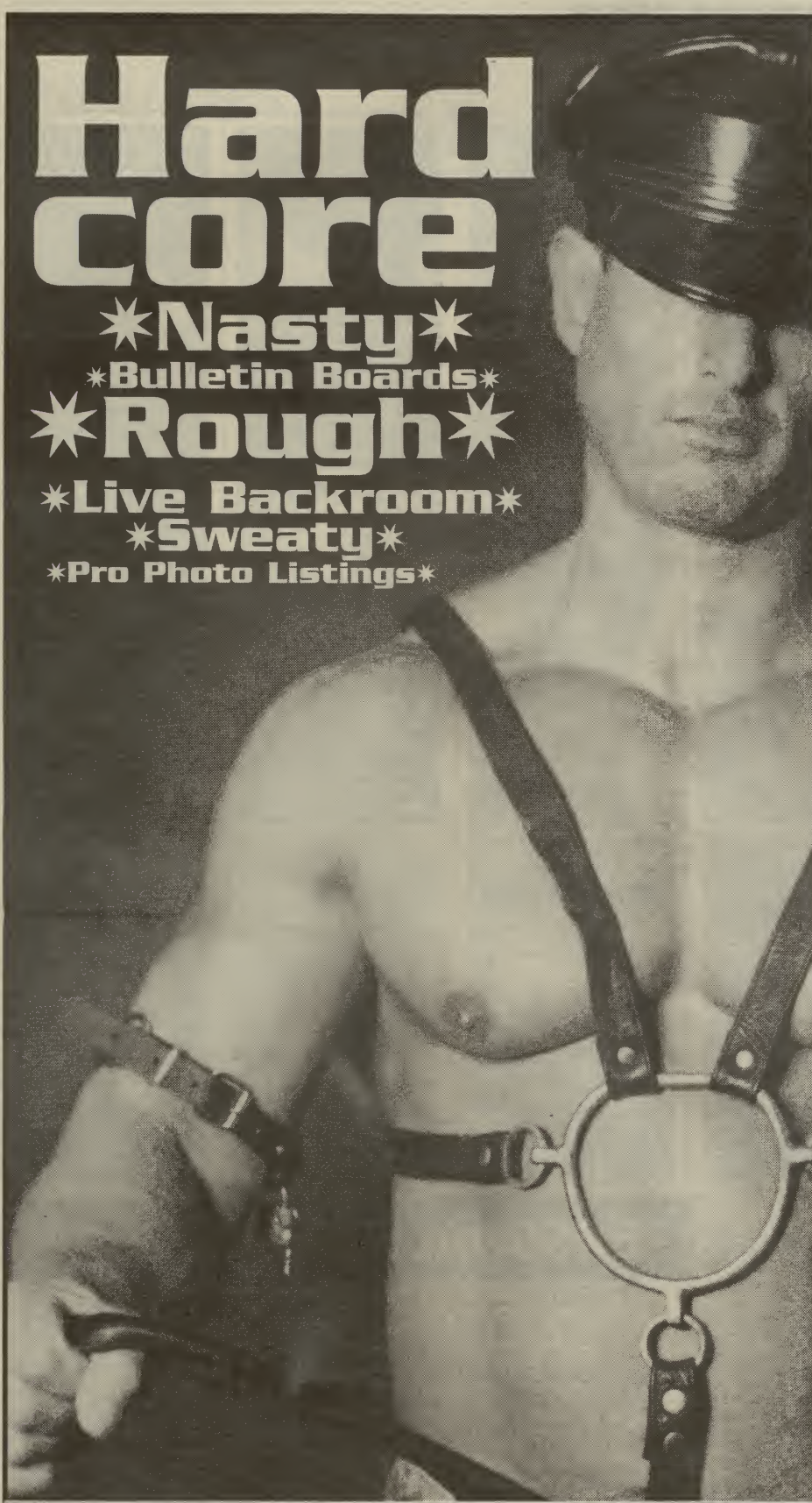
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